

Great gay getaways: special section
Destinations from the Bay Area's
backyard to the ante-bellum Deep South.
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A czar is born
New AIDS czar Sandy
Thurman visits SF.

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Gay dad to the rescue
Angela Pope's 'Hollow
Reed' opens in theatres.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 26 years

Cash for culture: Marchers in support of Prop. B wind their way to the Castro April 26.



Rick Gerhardt

City voters to decide on bond measure in June election

Queer Center would get funds under Prop. B

by Cynthia Laird

While the big bucks, media attention, and other hoopla surround the 49ers' stadium and mall ballot measures, there are other issues that San Francisco voters will determine when they go to the polls Tuesday, June 3. One of those is Proposition B, which would provide \$49 million in bond money, some of which would help establish the Queer Cultural Center (QCC).

Bond money would also go for seismic upgrades, accessibility improvements, and other renovations at four existing neighborhood cultural centers and the Arts Commission Gallery.

If approved by at least two-thirds of the voters in next month's special election, \$12 million would help establish cultural centers for the Native American, Asian/Pacific Islander, and queer communities.

Last Saturday, April 26, an estimated 50 people representing three groups

marched from the Mission to the heart of the Castro to publicize the ballot measure.

"It's a great investment," said Proposition B campaign manager Jeff Sheehy. "The existing ones [centers] have incredible after-school programs. The kids can develop talents and skills."

Sheehy pointed to an Arts Commission survey of merchants that revealed 70 percent of the business owners said neighborhood cultural centers contributed to the safety of the neighborhoods.

Proposition B funds will not be used for the Community Center Project's (CCP) planned lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community center at Market and Octavia streets. The QCC and CCP are separate projects. CCP board members have said they support the QCC.

Required culture

It's been a long and bumpy road for the QCC; proponents have already suffered one defeat at the polls. In 1993, Proposition A, which was widely supported, failed to get the required two-thirds of the votes. The QCC had sought to acquire space for their center through that bond measure.

In 1995, the QCC joined a consortium of San Francisco cultural centers. During subsequent Board of Supervisors hearings to revise the City Charter, the consortium was instrumental in winning support for neighborhood cultural centers.

The charter now requires the city to maintain smaller, city-owned cultural centers just as it maintains the buildings housing the opera, symphony, ballet, and large museums. But, since the charter was implemented, the neighborhood centers have been passed over for larger projects, such as the multimillion dollar renovation of the Opera House and the new home of the Asian Art Museum. Bond supporters don't object to these, but the neighborhood centers have deteriorated and need renovation, they explain.

The QCC would promote and preserve

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Sha'ar Zahav's gay Jews add Sukkot to 'Christmas in April'

by Shan Schwartz

The Castro area's Congregation Sha'ar Zahav joined 17 other synagogues and Jewish agencies last weekend in the first "Sukkot in April" day, joining Christmas in April San Francisco, an annual community-wide volunteer renovation program, to expand the annual rebuilding day into a full weekend of service.

Kenny Altman, Sha'ar Zahav's volunteer captain for the event, told the B.A.R. that the large group of Jewish organizations wanted to find a way to participate in the traditional Christmas in April volunteer event. Christmas in April activities take place on Saturday, a day which many Jewish people observe as a holy day. So Sukkot in April took place on Sunday.

Altman said Sukkot is a traditional Jewish fall harvest festival, also known as the Festival of Booths.

"Traditionally, if you have room for it, you build a temporary dwelling in your yard and eat your harvest meals in it," he said. Nowadays, most synagogues just build a big temporary structure outside their permanent building and celebrate the feast there.

Altman said San Francisco's Jewish community chose the Sukkot festival for the name of this April volunteer event because Sukkot deals with dwelling places, which

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Rick Gerhardt

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FIRST OF THREE SECTIONS

A life-long treatment plan for HIV should include therapies that not only work, but which you can live with.



All individuals depicted are HIV positive.

What's your STRATEGY...?

If you are thinking about starting therapy for HIV or are already receiving therapy, it's never too early—or too late—to develop a strategy for the long term.

The latest evidence from a variety of clinical trials as well as patient experiences indicates that delay of disease progression and prolonged survival are now within reach.

As a result, there is a new sense of optimism that HIV will eventually be managed as a long-term, chronic disease. The question is: How do you plan for the long run?

The Experts Are Divided...

There have been major advances in treatment of HIV. A larger number of medications are currently available for treatment and more are in development. However, there are still many questions to be answered. Even the experts have differing opinions as to the best way to use all of these new options.

Currently, there are two schools of thought regarding antiretroviral treatment.

Hit hard, hit early?

One approach is to "hit hard, hit early." Because we now have new information about how quickly the HIV virus replicates (or reproduces itself) from the very outset of infection, some experts believe that treatment should begin as an attack with the most intensive therapy possible. They feel that eliminating as much of the virus as possible as quickly as possible is the most important consideration.

...or develop a sequencing strategy?

However, many other experts feel that successful long-term HIV therapy requires more than strong medicine. These experts believe that a life-long treatment plan for HIV disease should include therapies that not only work, but which you can live with, as well. Since "drug holidays" can contribute to treatment failure, they are concerned that the side effects

and demanding dosing schedules of some anti-HIV drugs could cause people to skip doses or take less than the proper amount of their medicine. While the risk posed by drug-resistant strains of HIV is not completely known, HIV specialists are also concerned that, if resistance develops to drugs used early in therapy, the virus could become less sensitive to future treatments too.

Therefore, they recommend sequencing combinations of drugs, based on a number of factors, including an individual's symptoms, CD4 cell count and blood-level of HIV, previous treatments, lifestyle and future therapeutic options.

Where to Begin?

The goal of therapy is staying healthy for as long as possible, and, over the long run, you'll use many different regimens. How do you plan effectively?

You and your health care professional should design a personal treatment strategy. You'll need to look at the overall picture and develop a regimen based on your needs and your condition at different times. A regimen should be chosen based on several factors:

- Efficacy (effectiveness, how well it works)
- Tolerability (safety, risk of side effects)
- Convenience (how well the dosing fits with your lifestyle)
- Drug interactions (whether it can be used with other medications you may be taking)

- Sequencing (the expectation that there will be another drug to turn to as your needs change)

Only by taking into consideration **all** the criteria can an effective, long-term HIV treatment strategy be developed.

What Can You Do Now...?

The most important thing **you** can do is to take an active role in your treatment. You are your own best advocate. Ask questions. Work with your health care professional in making educated choices to develop an effective treatment strategy for the long term. Make the commitment to take your medication exactly as prescribed and stick to it. Plan for a healthy lifestyle incorporating proper nutrition and exercise. Be aware of current research results and new trends in treatment. Seek the support of family and friends, health care professionals, AIDS Service Organizations and other institutions. The time has never been better to map your own strategy and plan for the future.

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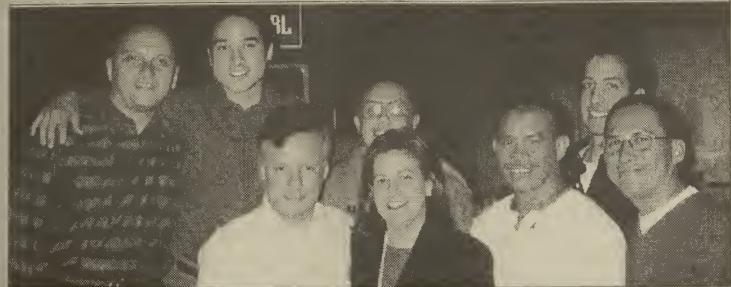
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Happy anniversary



Supervisor Susan Leal (center) poses with the officers of "El Ambiente" of Aguilas. The Latina supervisor had dropped by to present a proclamation celebrating the Latino AIDS organization's third anniversary, which was held at the popular Latino dance club Futura April 26. This Saturday, the Hispanic gay community and Bears combine for fun at Golden Gate Park from 11 am-2 pm at "Osos e Hombres."

Michael Amodeo

Lesbian Muni bus driver assaulted

by Dennis Conkin

A man who threatened to kill a lesbian Muni bus driver during a vicious anti-gay attack on April 5 remains in custody at the Hall of Justice on \$50,000 bail.

Tyrone Johnson is being held on hate crime and battery charges after the late Saturday evening attack against Muni operator Sami Sparks on a 14 Mission Street bus. Police responding to the battery-in-progress call noted that when they arrived at the 20th and Mission site, a huge crowd of people had gathered, three buses had stopped, and traffic was backed up for a block.

"We then heard yelling and a black male and white female approach us. The black male was yelling obscenities and pointing his finger in a threatening manner at the white female," according to a police report on the incident.

In addition to the victim, three independent witnesses told police that Johnson had attacked the bus driver, so they placed him under arrest — but as they began to handcuff him, the alleged assailant grew "extremely agitated" and began cursing at the arresting officer with such force that he sprayed spit all over the officer's face.

"That fucking dyke bitch, bull-dyke, fuck that bitch, fucking homosexuals, I'm going to kick that bitch's ass, fucking lesbian," Johnson yelled, according to the report.

Police also say that he threatened to "kill all you fucking cops," and continued his anti-gay and lesbian tirade while being booked.

According to the police report, Sparks was driving northbound on Mission and "skip stopping" to let off passengers only, because she had two buses behind her. Skip-stopping spreads out the distance between buses traveling after each other.

"Sparks said that she had stopped at 21st and Mission to let the passengers out at the rear door and left the front door closed," the report details. "Sparks told Johnson that she wasn't letting anyone in and to get on one of the buses following her."

Johnson then allegedly began a tirade of hate speech and anti-gay and -lesbian epithets and threatened to have Sparks fired.

"Open this fucking door and let me in, you fucking bitch. I'm going to have your fucking job, you bull dyke," Johnson yelled, the report claims.

Sparks drove on to 20th and Mission, and when she opened the door to let off passengers, Johnson, who had run to catch up to the bus, allegedly jumped on board and began attacking her physically and threatening to kill her.

"Fucking bitch dyke. Fuck you. Suck my dick, you fucking dyke. I'm going to kill you because you are a fucking dyke. I hate you fucking lesbians. You're dead, dyke bitch," Johnson yelled, according to the police narrative — and then lunged.

Johnson allegedly kept slapping Sparks repeatedly on the face, grabbed her wrists with both hands, spit in her face, and kept up the threatening harangue as a passenger successfully grabbed him in a bear hug to remove him from Sparks, and the two fell off the bus.

Sparks told police she had never been attacked before, and that she was afraid for her life because of the intensity of Johnson's rage — and that she felt that she was physically attacked because of her sexual orientation.

While being booked, Johnson told the booking officer that he did not want two female officers to book him or touch him and asked why he did not have male officers.

"He kept yelling at us, 'You fucking lesbian bitches, homosexuals. I don't want all you homosexuals touching me. I don't want women officers, you ugly bull dykes,'" the narrative concludes.

Johnson will appear in Municipal Court this Tuesday, May 6 for a hearing on the charges.

Conviction for assault and battery on transit personnel carries a mandatory five-year state prison sentence. ▼

Corrections

The illustrator who drew the proposed lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community center featured on page 27 of last week's B.A.R. was not identified. The rendering was drawn by Christopher Grubbs. We regret the omission.

Also, the front page photo of the taxi accident on 17th Street was taken by Wheaton A. B. Mahoney. It was supplied by Dennis Ziebell, who was erroneously credited as photographer. We regret the error. ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

AEF to serve up good food, wine, and deeds

by Dennis Conkin

More than 20 celebrity chefs and fine wineries will be highlighted at the annual AIDS Emergency Fund Celebrity Chef Dinner and Awards Ceremony next Monday, May 12 at the San Francisco Marriott.

Hosted by AIDS activist Jeff Getty, Empress XXXX Donna Sache, and KFOG's Dave Morey, the gala event begins at 6 p.m. with cocktails and a silent auction.

Dinner will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will include gourmet items from chefs such as Amey Shaw of Alta Plaza restaurant; Nancy Oakes of Boulevard; Cafe Marimba; Frantolo; MECCA; Rubicon; and chefs from other fine area restaurants.

Participating wineries include Associated Wine Distributors, Bonny Doon Vineyard, The Wine Warehouse, Sanford Winery, and Caymus Wineries.

"All participating chefs have donated their food and expertise for the event, helping to ensure the AIDS Emergency Fund's incredible '90/10' statistic," said publicity spokesman David Perry.

"Ninety percent of all money raised for AEF goes directly into the hands of people living with AIDS/HIV. Only ten percent goes toward overhead. No other Bay Area non-profit can claim such a high return," Perry said.

A variety of awards honoring the hard work of volunteers and community businesses or non-profit service agencies will be bestowed at the annual event.

Among the award recipients are Jeannie Englehart, a 73-year-old volunteer who rides the train twice a week from Burlingame to the AEF offices in downtown San Francisco to spend several hours counting pennies for the Every Penny Counts Project.

Volunteer David Niven will receive the Fred Skau outstanding volunteer award, and Steven Sams will receive the Darrell Yee community volunteer award.

AIDS Benefit Counselors executive director Paul Causey will receive the Hank Cook Outstanding Service Award. Daddy's Bar, a popular Castro Street establishment, will receive the George Burgess Founders' Award. Local philanthropist Jim Hormel will receive the new AEF Heart Of Gold award for his continuing support.

In addition, a variety of community recognition awards will go to people and agencies who have provided crucial support and assistance to the 15-year-old non-profit group.

The agency provides annual cash assistance of \$400 to cash-strapped clients by making payments to service providers for emergency rental medical and other emergency needs.

Grants to AEF clients have risen from \$1.2 million in 1994 to an estimated \$1.6 million distributed to nearly 4,000 clients in 1996.

An estimated 14 percent of the AEF clients are impoverished East Bay residents, 40 percent of whom are people of color; 25 percent of AEF clients are women — nearly all with children.

Tickets for the annual dinner are \$100 in advance or at the door. ▼

For more info about the event, contact AEF at (415) 558-6980.



Magic chefs: Just part of the AEF's sterling culinary line-up.

Ken Friedman

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Encouraging words



Rick Gerhardt

Maura Rothman (right) of Quality Partners gives a bit of reassuring advice to Bruce Abney and Brian Pruitt during the Learning Annex session of Dating 101 for Gay Men and Lesbians. It was the first specifically gay-themed class for the Annex and covered such topics as taking a risk, fears, learning to be attractive, rejection and flirting. Over 50 searching queers learned the ropes of the dating

Gay man attacked in Duboce Park

by Dennis Conkin

A gay man assaulted Wednesday, April 23 near Duboce Park says he's convinced he would have been killed if his three juvenile attackers had kicked him once more in the head during the savage beating.

Tom Parrette, 28, a writer and newsletter editor for the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association, told the Bay Area Reporter he had walked through Duboce Park after leaving the popular Noe Street coffeehouse Jumping Java, and was nearing his home in the area, when the 10:15 p.m. attack happened.

"I got to the dead end of Pierce Street and heard footsteps, and thought they were runners out jogging," Parrette told the B.A.R. "I moved to one side to let them pass."

But instead of passing, Parrette said one of the youths grabbed him around the neck and pulled him to the side of a Waller Street building.

"He said, 'Give me your money' right off the bat," Parrette

said. "It was the last thing he said to me. Almost immediately, he took a swing at my face."

According to a police report of the incident, after Parrette said he didn't have any money, the three men began the attack.

Parrette is recovering from contusions and lacerations, including a gash from near his right temple to his hairline and eyebrows that required some 30 stitches. His eyes were swollen shut for several days, and he has suffered extensive bruising and soreness in his jaw from being kicked and hit.

"They kicked the shit out of me," Parrette said. "They hit me in the face. They almost knocked me out. I fell down and each of them took turns kicking me in the face."

"It was like I was underwater. I couldn't decipher what was going on," he said.

After the first couple of punches, Parrette yelled for the young assailants to "get the fuck off," to attract the attention of neighbors.

"I was dazed. I just wanted them to get off of me. I said please just leave me the fuck alone," he said.

Parrette said that by the end of the attack he was certain that if it continued, he would have been killed.

'They saw an opportunity'

As Parrette's attackers fled, two neighbors came out of their homes to assist.

"One guy said, 'I saw what happened, what can I do?' I said to call 911. Another neighbor said they had already called," he said.

Parrette said that he believed the assailants weren't all that interested in money.

"They were just looking to kick the shit out of someone. I just happened to cross their path," he said. "I don't see myself as having been singled out. They saw an opportunity. I was unlucky."

"I don't know if they perceived me as gay. I have no idea what I had that met their criteria."

The suspects were described as African-American teenagers between 16 and 18. One suspect wore a green jacket, one suspect wore an all-white outfit, and one suspect wore a red, white, and blue jacket, according to witness.

'Spring Ball' for gay adults next Friday in Hayward

...But tickets are limited

by Cynthia Laird

Get out your tuxedos and formal gowns and dust off those dress shoes — the "Spring Ball for Gay Adults" will be held in Hayward on Friday, May 9. The event is being sponsored by Out in Eden, an East Bay group that formed several years ago in an effort to better serve the queer communities in southern Alameda County.

Proceeds from the event will

also benefit the third annual gay prom for youth sponsored by Project Eden's Lambda Youth Group.

Susan Bishop, project consultant for Out in Eden, said the formal affair will be alcohol- and drug-free.

Music will be provided by DJ Jaime of Pure Sound. The tunes will go back a decade each hour of the evening, ending with music from the 1960s. A photographer will also be available for those wishing to purchase photos commemorating the event. Lavender

Liquids will have espresso and iced coffee drinks for sale.

Catered hors d'oeuvres by ZZAs, soft drinks, and snacks are included, Bishop said. The menu is extensive, and is expected to feature assorted crostini, including caponata and goat cheese, roasted peppers and basil; eggplant rolled with pine nuts; stuffed mushrooms with rock shrimp; cheese; and fruit.

"The purpose of the Spring Ball is to provide you with a

next page ▶

Three Castro businesses robbed in 'Hip Hop Bandits' spree

by Dennis Conkin

Castro area merchants are wary after Harvey's Bar at 18th and Castro, the Baghdad Cafe on upper Market, and the 17th Street Shell station were robbed at gunpoint between April 11 and 19th.

According to San Francisco police inspector Dennis Maffei, the incidents were just three in a string of reported armed robberies by three suspects – dubbed the "Hip Hop Bandits."

"They are [cash] register robbers. One of the suspects points a weapon," said Maffei of the robbery bureau.

"It's a big hit," said Barry Hermanson, president of the Merchants of Upper Market & Castro, a local association of business owners and concerned citizens. "But what can you do?"

Hermanson said the merchants' group had invited Mission Station Captain Greg Suhr to meet with the group Thursday, May 1 about district crime concerns and additional beat officers.

According to a crime information bulletin prepared by San Francisco Patrol Special officer Jane Warner, two of the suspects

enter an establishment together, and one of them orders a beverage, looks around, and then walks behind the counter, produces a gun, and demands money from the clerk.

The second suspect helps clear the register – and the tip jar – and then the pair leave the restaurant on foot. A third suspect stands outside the establishment as a lookout during the robbery.

In the Harvey's robbery on April 19th, the suspects waited until 12:30 p.m. to strike – while the place was crowded with patrons, most of whom did not know a crime was in progress.

"A couple did. They were pretty quick," a Harvey's manager told the Bay Area Reporter.

The trio fled Harvey's by jogging up the street.

In some cases, according to the merchant information bulletin, a 1980s copper-colored Isuzu car has been used.

Police describe one suspect as a thin, young white adult male between the ages of 18 and 20, between 5'7" and 5'10" in height, and weighing about 150 pounds. He was dressed in a black sweatshirt with a hood, blue jeans or black baggy pants, and a baseball cap worn backwards. He spoke in a Southern accent and used a .45 caliber semi-automatic weapon in all of the robberies.

The second suspect is described as an African-American adult male from 20 to 25 years old, between 5'10" and 6' tall, and weighing 180 to 235 pounds. He was dressed in a hooded sweatshirt and baggy pants, and wore a distinctive blue beanie or black baseball cap during one robbery, witnesses say. He has either a butterfly stitch or scarring above his right eye.

Descriptions of the lookout suspect are incomplete, except that he is described as a mixed-race adult male.

The robberies started at the Shell Station on April 11th, according to Maffei. On April 13, the Baghdad Cafe was hit; on April 18th, the trio robbed the Hard Rock Cafe on Van Ness. The following day they struck Harvey's, and on April 20 Mel's Drive-In was robbed.

Police describe the trio as armed and dangerous. ▼

Anyone with information should contact Inspector Dennis Maffei at (415) 553-1201.

Buena Vista Park robber to get two years in prison

by Dennis Conkin

A man accused of using sex to lure several gay victims into secluded areas of Buena Vista Park, and then stealing from them, pleaded guilty to a single count of robbery during a pre-trial conference on Friday, April 25.

Jeffrey March, who has been held on \$140,000 bail since his arrest last August, will be sentenced in Department 25 of Superior Court on Monday, May 12 to a two-year state prison term as the result of a negotiated settlement.

Prior to the plea arrangement, March, 30, faced ten years in state prison. His guilty plea counts as a strike under the state's three strikes law; if he is convicted of two more serious felonies during his lifetime, he will be sentenced to a mandatory 25 years to life in prison.

Originally arrested on 18 counts, including robbery, grand theft, and other crimes, March often retained and used the victims' identification – and when arrested in connection with other crimes, such as petty theft, would use the stolen identification.

The case attracted widespread attention in the lesbian and gay community last year, when it was re-assigned from the department's general investigations division to then-Police Special Investigations/Hate Crimes Division Investigator Sergeant Marlene Ottone.

Ottone, now a police lieutenant at Mission Station, is re-

sponsible for the intensive criminal investigation that identified March and linked him to the serial crimes, according to Assistant DA Maria Bee.

"His prosecution wouldn't have been possible except for Marlene Ottone and Community United Against Violence," Bee said.

CUAV contacted Ottone after one of the 11 victims eventually identified complained that he had received an initial "brush-off" from police investigators – and that he had information about other victims.

Ottone arranged for the case to

be transferred to the hate crimes unit, and worked closely with the gay press and CUAV in locating other victims and developing the evidence that led to March's arrest and successful prosecution, according to CUAV client advocate Jennifer Rakowski.

March pleaded guilty to robbery in a case where he brutally broke the victim's finger so badly that it had to be surgically repaired with metal pins.

March's two-year sentence will be reduced by the amount of time he has spent in custody awaiting trial. He will also be required to make restitution to his victims. ▼

Spring Ball

◀ previous page

memorable evening of dance in an environment that will be alcohol- and drug-free," Bishop explained.

In 1993, CommPre, a program of Horizons Services in Hayward, prioritized suggestions and recommendations to better serve the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities in southern Alameda County cities such as Hayward, Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, and San Leandro. Out in Eden is the task force that grew out of those meetings.

Monthly activities are held, and special events have taken place the last two years. A successful gay film festival and ice cream social was held in San Leandro in

1995. Last year, Out in Eden, in association with Gays and Lesbians Organized for Betterment and Equality (GLOBE), held an Evening of Comedy in Hayward that was also well-attended.

Bishop said that only 180 tickets are available for the Spring Ball, so people should purchase them soon. Volunteers are also needed to help at the event. ▼

The Spring Ball takes place from 7 p.m. until midnight at Centennial Hall, located at 22292 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. Tickets are \$50 each. For ticket or volunteer info, call Susan Bishop at (510) 888-4216 or CommPre at (510) 784-7142. Tickets can also be purchased at Out of the Closet, 22544 Main Street in Hayward.

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Who's calling, please?

We at the B.A.R. were saddened to learn of Dr. Gene Copello's imminent departure from the Department of Public Health AIDS Office. He has accepted a job in Jacksonville, Florida, and leaves San Francisco later this month.

During his tenure at the AIDS Office, Copello consistently demonstrated what it takes to be effective dealing with the public and policies. He always returned calls from the press, something other AIDS Office staff members would be wise to continue.

We've suspected for quite a while (and recently had it validated) that some employees in the AIDS Office dislike and distrust the Bay Area Reporter. As a result, our inquiries have at times been ignored; our voice mail messages apparently discarded.

Why? Well, maybe it's because this newspaper, on occasion, publishes items critical of the AIDS Office, including editorials, articles, and letters from our readers. It must be emphasized, however, that a newspaper's content should never dictate how, or even if, a *public government office* responds to the media. The AIDS Office has a responsibility to do so all of the time. Period.

Accurate information about this city's AIDS services, policies, and future direction can only be disseminated when government workers in the AIDS Office make it a priority to return reporters' phone calls. Of course, they could take the initiative and call us with the news first; we'd be thrilled.

Good luck, Gene, you'll be deeply missed.

Speaking of officials not returning telephone calls, there is something vaguely sinister to consider about this week's story on the Flower Therapy raid aftermath (or, more accurately, the lack of aftermath): U.S. Attorney Michael Yamaguchi, who is not returning San Francisco D.A. Terence Hallinan's calls these days, is obviously being

squeezed in the middle of a power play.

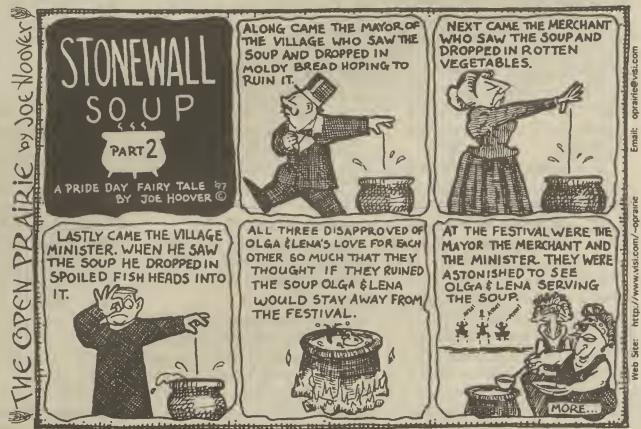
Senator Dianne Feinstein, you may recall, recently put Yamaguchi's name forward as a candidate for a federal judgeship. We find it suspicious that the raid on a local cannabis growing operation happened shortly thereafter, and on a day Yamaguchi had called in sick to work. Assuming he is not being disingenuous—and he's always been honest before now—and he was sick that day, it seems some other people (in his office or out) manipulated the situation so that he'll be forced to alienate some segment of the electorate.

If he prosecutes the Flower Therapy people, Yamaguchi loses progressive support; if not, he faces a tough confirmation from the

regressive types who would like to see all cannabis clubs closed down, all cannabis growers (and many of their supporters) thrown into prison, and all PWAs left without medication. It's a classic gambit, and, we have to say with some admiration for the technique—although none for the intention—awfully well-played.

We hope Yamaguchi resists the effort to drive him rightward, and that he (like Hallinan, San Francisco Sheriff Mike Hennessey, and other sensible law enforcement officials) will firmly support the choice of people with life-threatening diseases to add cannabis to their drug regimens, if that's what they and their doctors feel is best. ▼

Editorial



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Beyond culture and cultural competency

by April Martin Chartrand

"Women and men of this universe have had to endure so much abusive pain in order to live a humanly possible life. Universal women and men must break out of this self-imposed and societal lie that keeps us in mental bondage."

— April Martin Chartrand 1994

I have recently been appointed by the Honorable Barbara Kaufman, president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, as the new San Francisco Board of Mental Health member. This esteemed appointment is for three years, which includes serving on the public relations committee, attending monthly board meetings, and making appropriate recommendations to the board. I will focus on mental illness as it relates to domestic/relationship violence (gay/lesbian/trans/straight), and on cultural competency.

Cultural competency is a healing and awareness trend for the new millennium, based on a philosophy of respect and sensitivity to cultural diversity. It requires demonstrated awareness and acceptance of and openness to learning from the general and health-related beliefs, practices, traditions, religious, history, languages, and current needs of individuals and the relevant cultural groups to which they belong.

This is a sign that society has begun to understand that healthy and empathetic interactions with each other heals the individual providing service and all those receiving treatment. When we feel understood by our caregivers, this has a positive effect on recovery of any kind. During my personal healing journey, I sought out and interviewed professionals and healers before services were rendered. That made a life-

saving difference.

Being a survivor of family and domestic violence and a tri-racial woman (African, Irish-American, and Cherokee) has left me with traditional artistic and healing gifts from my ancestors. My ancestors were slave owners, slaves, and farmers; now we are craftspeople, medical doctors, healers, artists, teachers, and publishers. As a result, I see parts of myself in everyone. This mirrored approach in viewing my life creates an opening of the heart and soul and for a multitude of spiritual communities.

Having a mind-set and living a lifestyle that reaches out to everyone has provided me with a heartfelt acceptance and understanding of all communities. During my high school years I felt that I did not fully fit in the white culture of Santa Barbara, so I sought out the gay-creative thespian community of my peers. During my college years, all my male and female friends were a combination of gay/straight and multicultural. (Even as a heterosexual, I've experienced the violence associated with homophobia: my mother, who did not like the idea of me living with a gay roommate and couldn't deal with societal/church gossip about my housing arrangements, resorted to both physical and verbal attacks against me.) Cultural competency and living beyond culture are the lifelines that allow for the community outreach/healing that I now do.

We are all reflections of one another, therefore there is no need for judging and hateful thinking, which by the way, manifests illness in all of us and destroys inner peace.

Please join me and get involved in your healing from violence, low self-esteem and mental illness and build bridges and appre-

ciate the similarities in our mission in life. I am a current intern at the Family Violence Prevention Fund and committee member of The Survivors and Witnesses Project. Our goal is to provide support, training, and opportunities for survivors and witnesses to take action against violence in the home. We are educating the public and becoming domestic violence prevention spokespersons.

I will be actively participating in the October 1997 Domestic Violence Awareness Month's public education activities. For more information, call (415) 252-8900 or 1-800-END-ABUSE and help stop domestic violence. Connect with a higher loving universe, mend your hearts and embrace our similarities.

If you are a concerned citizen or organization interested in the annual National Mental Health Awareness Month's Activities and Art Show in May, in mental health information, in attending the monthly public meetings, or if you have an issue for presentation, please contact:

The San Francisco Mental Health Board
1380 Howard Street Suite 510
San Francisco, CA 94103
Phone (415) 255-3474/ Fax (415) 255-3751. ▼

Guest Opinion

The author is a peer counselor (based on the BUILD Model) national award-winning fiberalchemist, and published poetess with a B.A. in Creative Arts from San Francisco State University. The *Psychic Reader* magazine will feature her in its June Creative Goddess article. For more information or bookings, please visit her web-site: www.opencall.com/Fiberalchemist

LETTERS

Systematic harassment

Re: SB 1301 and related matters.

Your "Fucking Rights" editorial (April 17) hit the mark and echoed a proposal for this year's parade theme, "Fuckin' Freedom," a phrase out of last year's Film Festival feature *Stonewall*. The Parade Committee didn't go for it. Too bad, 'cause if we're not too proud to proclaim it, that's just what this year's parade may end up being about.

By the way, I'd like to clarify something in the piece about the sex club restrictions controversy in the same issue (p. 14): Steven O. Murray, Ph.D., and I did not meet privately with Jim Hutchinson of the Dept. of Building Inspection, as might be inferred from the article. Rather, Steven, myself and perhaps a half-dozen others in addition to Commission members and staff were present at the Building Inspection Commission's regular meeting of April 2. There Steven read a statement which echoed Supervisor Ammiano's letters to the downtown press earlier this year regarding selective enforcement of building code violations. In his statement Steven urged "the commission and the department to avoid being suckered into being the hitman for the Department of Public Health."

Steven also expressed his interest in this matter as one of concern "about systematic harassment of gay spaces." Others so concerned could do worse than take a look at Steven's book *American Gay* (The University of Chicago Press, 1996). Besides much else, Chapter Four, entitled "The Promiscuity Paradigm, AIDS, and Gay Complicity with the Remedicalization of Homosexuality," provides a fairly good account of the 1984 bathhouse closures for those who weren't around then or perhaps weren't paying attention.

Reid Condit
San Francisco



Mailstrom

La Liz

First, I read your paper each week and enjoy it a lot. I am very upset: always in your paper, you always mention all the people who have been giving to the AIDS fundraisers, but never a great actress, Liz Taylor. As you most likely know, she is giving much time and money to this cause. I do feel she should be recognized from time to time.

Jay Hoffman
San Francisco

Frankenstein treatments

Pat Christen is a friend of the gay community. Protease inhibitors are the miracle drugs of the century. Pack your bags, there's a UFO behind Hale-Bopp. It seems people will believe anything over the truth. Gwynn Goodner's recent letter is a good example. Duh. Hello. Gwynn, get a clue. Bottom line: in regards to Pat Christen's SFAF, the issue is corporate excess over people's needs. Witness the recent lavish reception SFAF gave itself for a photo exhibition. After Levi Strauss refused to foot the bill, SFAF turns around, writes a check for \$7,000 for a 45 minute private party. Never mind such indulgences. Never mind the heterosexist chauvinism and racism emanating from this corporate autocrat. The fact that her bloated \$140,000 plus salary doesn't offend you, your boyfriend and other employed members of the "AIDS community" speaks for itself. I maintain my action of Oct. 17th was a blow against the AIDS Inc. elite. If by my action Pat Christen has been subjected to scrutiny and lost a White House position, then bingo gringo, mission accomplished!

Gwynn tells us she has a 50-year-old 50-inch waistline boyfriend. Congratulations, Gwynn! My companion was murdered by AZT therapy in the late eighties. Eight years later, the morbid therapeutic Frankenstein treatments continue in their latest incarnation as "the morning after pill." HIV-negative AIDS Inc. "do-gooders" will never experience the psychic coercion and hard sell to pop these pills. Meanwhile, you can always count on those on the top to cash in. No amount of well-meaning, altruistic, hand-wringing, red ribbon-wearing, self-sacrificing, teary-eyed, quilt-folding, "we are the world" sentimentality can change that fact.

So I've been "widely criticized by lesbian and gay activists" for my action of Oct. 17th. I've been living with HIV for over ten years precisely because I have stayed away from the so-called "treatment" ghouls of BETA, Project Conform, Dr. Diner of Health Center One, etc. etc. Perhaps the PC lesbian and gay activist community is too busy cashing their checks from their corporate bosses to condemn the profiteering, exploitation, and ultimately murder committed by these sanctimonious Dr. Benways on the HIV-positive. Too busy waiting for Ellen to come out of the closet to get a clue. Needless to say I'm not holding my breath.

Ronnie Burk
San Francisco

Hidden a-gender

"Name Withheld," [April 17] please go to Hell! The use of "lesbian" and "gay" (etc.) to define certain buildings, events, or organizations doesn't thrill me, but it doesn't hurt me, either. If "homosexual," the non-political term we can all use to identify you-know-who or you-know-what, could be used to reclaim a more natural (and less space-hogging) inclusivity on posters, et al., that would be way cool. If you wanted to lead a grassroots effort to do that, hey, I might even join up. Don't expect me to get all gushy and friendly, though, when your gender and name are hidden. Oh and, uh, I'm a guy. Bite me.

Thornton Kimes
San Francisco

Rank hotels

On this income tax day 1997, I find myself contemplating the taxes and wages of others. The newspaper today has reported that the President of the United States is salaried at \$200,000 a year, and I recall reading recently in the B.A.R. that Pat Christen, the Director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, is paid over \$130,000 a year. How can this be?

How can the AIDS Foundation pay such an inflated wage to someone and then turn around and respond to emergency housing requests by placing a person with AIDS in a rundown, roach or drug-polluted hotel? How is a person expected to stabilize their health and get well in such a miserable environment?

I see PWAs who are forever in the loop of hotels, and what begins as an emergency housing fix becomes a continual living situation. In a way it seems to me that people with AIDS are merely a money conduit between the SF AIDS Foundation and crummy hotels. Providing clean and safe emergency quarters for people with AIDS should be the top priority of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. As a man living with HIV I know of the shortage of decent housing for people with AIDS and the long waiting lists for the funded housing programs. However, a lot of money is being put into the pockets of the landlords who own single room occupancy hotels and routinely avoid responsibility for their properties. This money paid the hotels is an excellent bargaining chip.

Today in my musings of wages, taxes, and people with AIDS, I thought of a solution to this part of the PWA emergency housing dilemma. However, to accomplish this end without affecting other parts of the AIDS Foundation budget would require Ms. Christen to downsize her salary enough to afford to pay the annual salary of a hotel observer. That is someone who is HIV savvy and whose job it would be to check out the San Francisco hotels used now to emergency house PWAs. Each of the hotels would be ranked, a list published regularly and shared with other agencies. Conceivably with a hotel review and rating course of action, HIV clients will more likely get cleaner and safer emergency accommodations. Think about it.

Michael T. Roper
San Francisco

'Pit bull' comic responds

After reading Dennis Conkin's ridiculous article about my "anti-gay" routine at the Punchline, I had to respond to Sam Curlee's comments about my act.

The jokes I made may have been "vulgar and rude," but they were not "hate speech," according to Dennis's article. The remarks attributed to me were somewhat misquoted and taken out of context.

I want to make it clear I did not go after these guys because they were gay, but because they weren't laughing, and taking my act a bit too seriously. I make some vicious jokes about my wife — does that mean that I hate all women? No! And because I have some gay jokes in my act does not make me homophobic. As a matter of fact, Mr. Curlee never mentioned in the first 15 minutes of my act I mentioned that I'm married, which makes me now understand the gay lifestyle, that there are no gay gangs — that they're very non-violent and people should leave them alone, and that they dress much better than straight men. These don't sound like "anti-gay" comments to me.

The entire audience that night seemed to love my performance, and if I see someone not laughing, maybe I do get a bit mean with them.

As for the overly sensitive Mr. Curlee and his friends, I do feel a *bit* bad that he was so offended, but believe me, my audience is not going out gay-bashing after one of my shows.

With all the true homophobic hate speech going on out there, I think there are much more important places for Sam to use all that time and energy on.

Wait till you grow up, pal, and spend some more time in the real world. It's a bitch. Toughen up!

Bobby Stayton
Las Vegas, NV

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Cuba update

I just read your article about Cuba [April 17]. There are a couple of inaccuracies that may have been typos. First of all, UMAP stands for *Unidades Militares de Ayuda a la Producción*, not "para Aumento del Producción." The other is that the Mariel Boatlift was in 1980, not 1979 as reported in the article. Also, as you correctly mentioned in the article, policies about HIV-positive people have been relaxed substantially, but still people that test positive are interned in those sanitarians, and normally are escorted when they have passes to go home. I am sure that these changes are the product of a lot of international pressure, mainly from the gay community in the U.S., which probably is the only one that raised these concerns with the Cuban government.

I should also add that in the last couple of years, other changes have occurred in Cuba. Now, drag shows are very common, including performances in cabarets and hotels (government-owned); on weekends there are several private discos (called *fiestas de 10 pesos*, because that is what admission costs), which are hosted on building roofs or patios through Havana. The Cuban people have taken this with no reluctance and seems to be more open-minded than in many other Latin countries. Even though all these changes are positive steps, the problem with the Cuban government is that they can be reversed at any time, and you never know what to expect.

I have a feeling you read *Machos, Maricones and Gays in Cuba*, which has lots of good information. If not, try it.

Miguel Garcia-Vidal
 San Francisco

Chrysler collision

Today at the beginning of the shift I noticed a very derogatory anti-gay letter posted in the supervisor's office area. I asked my substitute supervisor to remove the letter, which she did. A few hours later, not only was the same letter plastered all over the entire shop area and office area, but it was magnified many times. When I came upon three supervisors sitting together, I asked them to remove the letter, as I found it to be very offensive. They said they did not know who posted it. After further requests I was ultimately told, "We'll see what we can do." I saw them remove one letter. But when I went back in the shop area again they were still plastered all over.

The posting was a letter to the editor of a local paper from a Chrysler employee, which stated in part:

"I have been a Chrysler employee for 32 years. I applaud my company for withdrawing advertising from the episode of the television show *Ellen*, in which the lead character announces her homosexuality. Chrysler is taking one small step toward discouraging deviant lifestyles and entertainment based on deviant and loose moral behavior."

I have never once posted anything at work on this issue. The very obvious reluctance of supervision to remove the letter reflects the callousness and contempt for gays/lesbians/bi/trans persons at Chrysler.

Today I will approach the diversity department to resolve the situation. A proper resolution is dubious, as the diversity department reports to the same executives who decided to pull advertising from *Ellen*.

Isn't it heart-warming to know that the same people who build Chryslers think that you are a "deviant"? Well, my vehicle-buying dollars are going to "deviate" elsewhere. Even though I am a Chrysler employee of almost 11 years, my next vehicle will not be a Chrysler.

Ron G. Woods
 Chair, Campaign For Equal Rights At Chrysler

Whitewash

So Dr. Allan Bérubé, genius recipient of a Macarthur Foundation, has made the great discovery that being gay is being white? And that the most common stereotype of gay men are white middle-class?

In reference to his experience with white gay men at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, unfortunately those were the first to be affected and treated for it.

He says he does not know how to examine his own whiteness. There is nothing wrong with being white, as long as there is nothing wrong or inferior with being yellow, black or brown. But until the whites who still feel prejudice toward someone who does not look like the typical white, could heal from that, this problem is not going to be resolved. I mean the problem that we as minorities face on a daily basis, even in this city, or the discrimination that we suffer. But only we feel it; in the eyes of others it is pure exaggeration.

Dr. Bérubé could do wonders with his research by meeting with minorities and broad-minded whites (including progressive lesbians) and try to improve our situation.

There are hundreds of ways that the white gay community (some of it) makes you feel that you are not welcome. It would take too long to go over them.

Joseph Sandoval
 San Francisco

Gay GOP viewpoint disputed

There are many debatable elements in the April 3 piece "Gay GOPs see problems at SFAF" by Scott Furman of the Log Cabin Club of San Francisco. In the editorial, Furman states that "The AIDS community and the Log Cabin Republican Club of San Francisco urge that HOPWA [Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS] funds and Ryan White [CARE] funds be used for partial rental subsidies similar to those granted by the AIDS Emergency Fund under a CARE contract." He goes on to cite that 50% of HOPWA funds are used for rental subsidies of around \$1,500/year per person in Los Angeles.

Let me state up front that I do not presume to speak for the AIDS community. I have, however, worked in the provision of emergency and longterm housing for people with HIV for over nine years. In addition, this response is not a criticism of the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF). That organization deserves nothing but respect for the important one-time rental (and other) assistance grants they and similar providers make available. They are vital in the continuum of care within the housing service delivery system.

Now, let us get real about housing in San Francisco. This is not LA. San Francisco, as anyone who has looked for an apartment recently can readily attest, is in desperate need of housing stock. I have heard estimates that the vacancy rate in this town is as low as 1%. A one-time emergency grant similar to those under the AEF contract, or a small "subsidy" of around \$100/month similar to the LA program, may help with a down-payment or keep someone from getting evicted. These grants would not provide additional safe and affordable housing stock with support services. Due to the lack of affordable housing, people with HIV are quite often forced into absurdly overpriced vermin-infested and unsafe residential hotels.

The Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) created HOPWA in response to national advocacy efforts that included many activists from San Francisco. This program is unlike any other in its ability to fund both capital (bricks and mortar) and support services. It creates new and appropriate housing that meets the changing needs of the changing face of AIDS. In a period of tremendous downsizing at HUD, most programs are getting lumped together and "block-granted." It has taken a tremendous effort by many dedicated advocates (including the SF AIDS Foundation) to ensure that HOPWA survives from year to year, and has funding. HOPWA is a unique opportunity for HUD and the Department of Health and Human Services (and the corresponding local SF Redevelopment Agency and Department of Public Health) to form funding collaborations. At a recent meeting, former HUD Secretary Cisneros and Secretary of Health Shalala encouraged Secretary of Veterans Affairs Brown to use some of the wealth of the VA in creating and funding similar collaborations serving people with HIV. Secretary Brown was visibly moved when we described the number of people waiting for housing in San Francisco.

The need for HIV housing with support services is not going away. Mr. Furman is wrong in his implication that the Centralized Housing Information and Placement Service (CHIP) is simply a waiting list for the SFAF housing subsidy program. Many people on that list are waiting for and in desperate need of low-rent housing with attendant, nutritional, and financial services. There are an estimated 7,000 homeless people with HIV in San Francisco. These people are the poorest of the poor in the epidemic, people of color, women living in poverty, and others who for many reasons cannot take the new drug regimens. They are often the sickest. These people are in desperate need of HIV Supportive housing, and there isn't enough of it. HOPWA is the only pot of federal dollars specifically set aside to create new housing stock for these people. Ryan White CARE funds must be made available to meet the on-going service needs. To state that San Francisco should emulate LA and spend half of this money on small subsidies or one-time grants is simplistic and shortsighted. The future needs of our community demand more. To put it bluntly, people with HIV are currently homeless and more will become homeless if we do not create this housing. People will die on the streets.

I commend the B.A.R. for bringing the important issue of HIV housing to the forefront of our community agenda.

Bob Nelson
 Executive Director of Dolores Street
 Community Services
 Member, Board of Directors,
 National AIDS Housing Coalition

Please keep letters short, to the point, and legible. Send them to the Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco CA 94103. Include your telephone number for verification purposes (that information will not be printed). No, you cannot fax or e-mail them.

POLITICS

Checkbook candidates

by Wayne Friday

When Republican Michael Huffington, a transplanted Texas multimillionaire, spent a purported \$28 million of his inherited wealth in a failed attempt to defeat incumbent Democratic U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein in 1994, the one-term congressman from Santa Barbara apparently set off a new political trend in California politics: using your own personal fortune to attempt to buy election to high government office. Although candidates in other states have, from time to time, used vast personal fortunes as a substitute for lack of any experience in trying to win elections, the phenomenon is somewhat new to California.

While Huffington, a newcomer to the state, had at least already won election to a congressional seat, he had barely been sworn in when he set out to purchase a seat in the Senate. The millions he spent, coupled with financial help from the national GOP, nearly did the trick for him; he lost to Feinstein by less than 200,000 votes.

This year, Alfred Checchi (pronounced Check-ee), a 48-year-old multimillionaire (reportedly worth nearly \$600 million) and former top executive with Northwest Airlines, has all but announced that he wants the Democratic nomination for governor next year. Checchi, a state resident for 12 years who says that he is "embarrassed" and admits that he was "remiss" in never voting in a gubernatorial election here, is seriously looking at entering the Democratic primary and will likely face such longtime state public servants as Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis and Senator Feinstein.

To be sure, not having previously held any public office shouldn't necessarily count against a candidate. Some would no doubt even argue that a "new face" might be more effective than those who have made politics a career.

The problem with rich people "buying" themselves public office comes when little else in his/her background suggests that he/she is even the least bit qualified to hold that office. Indeed, in Mr. Checchi's case, an argument could be made as to how sincere the guy really is about "serving" the public by holding such a high office as governor.

To hear Checchi talk, the "education issue" is primary. Educating the state's younger citizens is "most important," he tells his audiences, making it seem that this would be the central issue of his campaign were he to eventually become a candidate. Why then did Mr. Checchi fail to vote against Proposition 187, if, as he says, the proposition was a "war on children?"

He admits, however, that he didn't even bother to vote in that election. He further admits to being "remiss" in not bothering to vote last year on a \$3 billion school bond issue. Mr. Checchi appears, in my opinion, to be disingenuous at best.

Meanwhile, in San Diego last week, another multimillionaire, Darrell Issa, the owner of a successful car alarm business who has never held public office nor been



Camera ready: Mayor Willie Brown always gives good picture.

**Our Man Friday**

known as a citizen activist (other than to write campaign checks to other politicos), announced that he has dropped a mere \$2 million into a bank account to "explore" a run for the Republican U.S. Senate nomination next year. Issa, known in the San Diego area as a "checkbook Republican," provided valuable seed money to get Proposition 209, the measure that outlawed affirmative action programs in state government, off the ground. Mr. Issa would appear to be yet another political wannabe with deep pockets and too much time on his hands. Can't these people find a nice hobby?

But Issa is apparently itching to fight it out with State Treasurer Matt Fong, a candidate with a decent track record, in next year's GOP primary for the right to take on Democratic U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer in the '98 general election. Among the checks that Mr. Issa wrote to Republican candidates during the 1994 campaign was one for \$7,000 to Fong himself. Now, however, I am told that Mr. Issa considers both Fong and San Diego Mayor Susan Golding "too liberal."

Brown booster

The current issue of *San Francisco Focus* contains a less-than-flattering article by Joe Strupp entitled "Willie's Ego Hall of Fame." The piece points out that Mayor Willie Brown's City Hall office features no less than nine images of His Honor, including a full-body portrait placed strategically for all television cameras at mayoral press conferences. The narcissistic display draws snickers from many. Even former mayoral aide Hadley Roff, who worked for Feinstein, Art Agnos, and Frank Jordan, and says nary a discouraging word of anyone, commented to *Focus*, "It is extraordinary. I don't think any of the mayors I have known had that many portraits done."

One longtime Brown ally, requesting anonymity, laughed, "Why should anyone be surprised? We all know Willie is Willie's biggest fan."

A well-known local gay activist called and swore to me that he was in the first-class section last week with Ellen DeGeneres and actress Anne (Volcano) Heche on an LA-to-NY flight. Heche is telling friends that DeGeneres is her "first lesbian romance." She

says that her father, who killed himself in 1983 after learning he had the HIV virus, was a fundamentalist minister and a club-cruising closeted gay. The actress, once linked romantically to comic Steve Martin, swears that she will "never repeat her father's mistakes."

The rumors have already quietly started as to who Mayor Brown will appoint to Susan Leal's seat when she becomes city treasurer. Mark Leno? Pat Norman?

President Bill Clinton brought the house down at the annual Press Dinner in D.C. Saturday night when he lamented to the crowd that "the bad news about Chelsea going away to college this year is that she is our only child and we will miss having her around. The good news is that it frees up another White House bedroom."

In the It's About Time Dept.: The president, declaring that "such bias must be eliminated in our country and in our hearts," says he will lobby hard for passage of a bill that would outlaw employment discrimination against gays and lesbians. A recent poll by the Associated Press found that 85 percent of Americans favor equal rights for homosexuals in job opportunities.

Gay and lesbian activists in London apparently aren't celebrating too much about new Liberal Prime Minister Tony Blair. The 43-year-old Blair is apparently "liberal" in party affiliation only. In fact, he is a straight-laced, born-again Christian, and not thought to be a fan of gay/lesbian rights any more than Maggie Thatcher.

The latest statewide line-up: ex-Demo Party chair Phil Angelides has made it official! He'll run for state treasurer. The latest candidate for lieutenant governor is Leonard Firestone, a "moderate" assemblyman (pro-choice, not homophobic) from Santa Barbara. Firestone is a scion of Firestone Rubber Company and will face two conservative, anti-gay Republicans, State Senators Tim Leslie and Richard Mounjoy, in the GOP primary.

Last week's column on possible GOP presidential candidate Elizabeth Dole brought in more than the usual share of comments. Incidentally, a recent *Time* assessment of possible GOP candidates in 2000 said of Mrs. Dole, "She wants to remind us of Margaret Thatcher, but actually reminds us more of Anita Bryant." Orange juice, anyone? ▼

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25 years ago this week:

The death of a she-man G-man

by David Bianco

This week in gay history: J. Edgar Hoover dies of a heart attack at age 77, leaving the bulk of his estate to longtime companion Clyde Tolson, May 2, 1972.

For decades, Americans have periodically debated the sexuality of longtime FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, the dominant law enforcement official of this century. In his public life, Hoover set a new standard in his zealous pursuit and surveillance of those deemed dangerous to national security. His private life, in turn, has become a lightning rod for both

his critics and his defenders. Those who see Hoover as a national hero and freedom fighter tend to vigorously defend him against rumors of homosexuality, while his critics – both gay and straight – often describe Hoover's rumored peccadilloes with glee. Both approaches are historically problematic and – more disturbingly – seem to presume that homosexuality is a character flaw.

Any serious inquiry into Hoover's sexuality has to start with the following basic fact: for more than 40 years, the most important person in his life was another man – Clyde Tolson. Tolson, who was five years younger than Hoover, rose quickly through FBI

ranks once Hoover became his patron. Within two years, Tolson was assistant director of the bureau, and the pair were inseparable. Hoover and Tolson often traveled together, and rarely dined apart. Hoover's albums consisted almost exclusively of photographs of Tolson from their many vacations together. Anyone who knew what a gay couple looked like saw something very familiar when they looked at America's top two G-men.

In addition, the case that Hoover was heterosexual requires tremendous mental strain. Hoover was close friends with Lela Rogers (Ginger's mother), whose far-right philosophy matched his own. Some people suggest that the two may have been lovers, although with far less evidence than that which romantically links the director to Tolson. Other purported girlfriends have been put forth, but it is clear that Hoover never seriously dated any woman, nor did he ever give any indication that he wished he had a wife. Those who argue that Hoover was straight sometimes depend on amusing contortions – such as when one writer argued that Hoover must have been straight, since he kept a portrait of Marilyn Monroe on his wall. One wonders whether the starlet's picture was kept next to a Judy Garland or a Bette Davis.

But whether we classify Hoover as gay, homosexual, asexual, or even "homosocial," the director's obsession with homosexuality cannot be challenged. During the 1950s and 1960s, when the homophile movement was diminutive and quite powerless, Hoover had his agents keep close tabs on gay and lesbian organizing – even keeping the menus from some gay gatherings in his files. He blackmailed several gay government employees, and

cracked down on any individuals or groups who repeated rumors of his own homosexuality. One woman who told her bridge partners she had heard Hoover was gay was visited by FBI agents who demanded that she call her friends and retract her accusation. Perhaps with no sense of irony, Hoover was once quoted as saying, "I regret to say that we of the FBI are powerless to act in cases of oral-genital intimacy, unless it has in some way obstructed interstate commerce."

On the other hand, the "proof" that Hoover was gay that has circulated since the 1920s (and especially since the publication of several "tell-all" biographies this decade) is rarely substantiated by more than one source and often seems exaggerated in order to sully Hoover's reputation. For observers who don't share the assumption that homosexuality is a character flaw, these tales can be somewhat disturbing – even when titillating.

One recent book argued that Hoover never executed a full-frontal assault against the Mafia because they had full-frontal shots of him orally servicing his deputy. This book also gained public attention for its (weakly documented) descriptions of Hoover attending gay sex orgies in a short fluffy black dress, lace stockings, high heels, and a black curly wig. It quotes a woman who claims to have witnessed the director, so attired, being introduced by Roy Cohn as "Mary." It also tells of Hoover lecturing a 15-year-old male prostitute about his long hair before having sex with him.

While it is probable that Hoover had a sexual relationship with Tolson – and quite possible that Hoover did hire underage male prostitutes and attend gay orgies, the way Hoover's homo-

sexuality has been used to reinforce the negative aspects of his life (wiretapping, blackmail, and selective law enforcement, to name a few) should give gays and lesbians pause. During his life, Washington pols privately referred to the FBI's leaders as "J. Edna" and "Mother Tolson" – and the jokes have not stopped; even President Clinton suggested when selecting a new FBI director that it would be hard to find someone who could fill J. Edgar Hoover's pumps.

Perhaps Hoover's closet makes him a fair target for such jokes. But if he had been openly gay and candid about a love of cross-dressing, that would not have changed his role as the corrupt policeman of American conformity. If the primary reason for Hoover's continued ignominy is his "queerness" and not his politics, we all lose. ▼

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Past Out



David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. The author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*, he can be reached care of this publication or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com.

Voter reg deadline for June 3 election is Monday

by Cynthia Laird

T he San Francisco Registrar of Voters office reminds residents that Monday, May 5 is the registration deadline to vote in the June 3 special election.

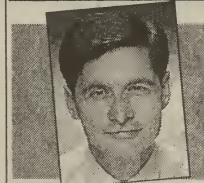
Under the city's new "Fail Safe Voting" law, people can still vote if they've moved within the city since the last election and can provide identification proving their new address. In those instances, people would vote at their new polling location and also complete a new voter registration form.

The registrar's office encourages people to bring registration cards to their office by Monday. The forms are available at most post offices or the registrar's office. Cards must be submitted to the office by 5 p.m. Monday; postmarks will not be accepted.

People who have moved into San Francisco from another city since the November 1996 general election must register by Monday to be eligible to vote. ▼

The registrar's office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and is located at 633 Folsom St., Room 109. 554-4398.

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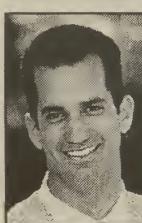
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But let's not lose sight of the following FACTS:

- 1. The project will more than repay the City's investment. It will provide millions in additional revenues to support vital city services.**
Independent financial analysts, including the Chamber of Commerce, have concluded that the tax and lease revenues not only will pay off the annual costs of the bond, they will provide millions annually for improvements to schools, public transit, law enforcement, health care and other vital needs.
- 2. The project will be the first major economic development project to benefit San Francisco's most neglected neighborhood.**
The project not only will provide thousands of permanent jobs for Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood residents, including 1000 jobs designated for welfare recipients, it will stimulate small business development along the Third Street transit corridor.
- 3. The City will own and control the use of the stadium and will maintain complete oversight of the project.**
Revenues for non-football uses of the stadium will go entirely to the City. Various City agencies, including the Planning, Redevelopment, Environment and Human Rights Commissions, will ensure that community concerns about the environment and access to jobs are addressed.
- 4. The 49ers have demonstrated their commitment to the well-being of our gay and lesbian community.**
The San Francisco 49ers are the nation's first professional sports franchise to provide domestic partner benefits to its employees. They also are the first and only professional football team to sponsor an "Until There's a Cure Day" to raise funds for AIDS service agencies. The new stadium complex will contribute \$12 million to an affordable housing fund, some of which will be earmarked specifically to benefit housing programs for people with HIV/AIDS

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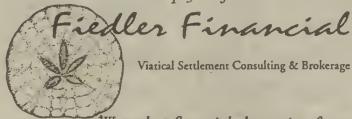
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14th AIDS candlelight march this Sunday

by Cynthia Laird

The 14th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial will be held Sunday, May 4; San Francisco is one of over 350 cities in 45 countries taking part in the grassroots annual event to honor the memory of those who have died of AIDS.

This year's theme is "Illuminate the Truth: Honor every death, value every life. Global Solidarity for access to healthcare, dignity and life." Organizers will present a declaration of solidarity to Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco, which states that "HIV care is a human right" and "all nations have an ethical duty to assist each other in making treatments available to people with AIDS."

Supporting statements from representatives of the American Red Cross, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the AIDS National Interfaith Network will also be presented.

"As we acknowledge the recent advances and recognize the need to continue our struggle against

AIDS, we cannot forget the real tragedy in the loss of so many cherished friends," said Loras Ojeda, coordinator of the San Francisco event.

The San Francisco observance has historically been the largest in the nation; the event began here in 1983.

This Sunday's march and mobilization will begin at Castro and Market streets, and people will then walk in candlelight procession to United Nations Plaza, at Market and Seventh streets. An outdoor ceremony will be held there featuring music and speeches. Tom Nolan of Project Open Hand will deliver the keynote address, and "AIDS Hero and Heroine" awards will be presented. The Reverend Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Church will lead a period of shared remembrances of those who have died of AIDS.

Participants are urged to dress warmly and to bring candles and wind barriers to protect the flame (such as a paper cup). Some candles and cups will be available at the beginning of the march. Ad-

ditionally, organizers are also seeking volunteers to help staff the event, Ojeda said.

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization is coordinated under the auspices of Mobilization Against AIDS (MAA), a local nonprofit organization. MAA staff register event coordinators in cities around the world and directly organize the San Francisco observance.

Ojeda said that based on figures from various pharmaceutical companies, Project Inform estimates that approximately 120,000 people in the United States are currently accessing or using protease inhibitors. In stark contrast, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta estimates there are between 750,000 and 1.5 million people in the country who are living with HIV. ▼

The march starts at 8 p.m.; the ceremony at U.N. Plaza is expected to begin at 9 p.m. For volunteer information, call MAA at (415) 863-4676.

National Women and HIV conference this weekend

by Cynthia Laird

More than 1,500 scientists, community providers, women with HIV, and policy makers will explore the latest developments in scientific research, prevention, and clinical care at the National Conference on Women and HIV this weekend in Los Angeles.

The event is the only national meeting that addresses issues specific to women living with HIV, the fastest-growing group in the United States with this disease. Organizers said that research into the epidemiology of and treatments for women with HIV lags seriously behind that of other groups affected by HIV.

In February, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued the first report of a decline in deaths from AIDS in the U.S. While total deaths decreased by 15 percent among men, deaths among women actually increased by three percent.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala will address those statistics in the opening keynote session.

For those unable to attend the May 4-7 event, there will be a free, live telephone report from the conference on Wednesday, May 7 that's being presented by BETA, the quarterly AIDS treatment publication of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF).

The conference will focus on three critical areas: basic and clinical science, the science of behavior and prevention, and HIV policy. Some of the areas covered include:

- The historical exclusion of women from clinical research trials. Currently, they comprise well under ten percent of HIV antiviral studies.

- Data on microbicides, the female condom, female sexual behaviors, and prevention interventions that work in specific female populations.

- Mandatory HIV testing of pregnant women: civil rights versus public health, and who is

making decisions on this issue.

It has been known since 1981 that women were vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. It wasn't until 1993, however, that the CDC conceded to change the surveillance definition of AIDS, the series of opportunistic infections resulting from HIV-related immunosuppression, to include female-specific HIV-related diseases such as bacterial pneumonia and cervical cancer.

The lack of scientific data on women and HIV is evident in several areas. For example, the role of viral load in disease progression has not been studied in women, except in relation to HIV transmission from mother to child. ▼

The BETA Live program starts at 3 p.m. Pacific time. To join the conference call, you must register in advance by calling (800) 707-BETA. For conference registration info, call (800) 845-2115.

Sha'ar Zahav

◀ page 1

also form the centerpiece of Christmas in April.

More than 4,000 participated citywide in Christmas in April and Sukkot in April activities last weekend. Volunteers worked side-by-side with neighbors and beneficiaries to preserve and repair homes of low-income, elderly, and disabled San Franciscans and to renovate community facilities. Nationwide, more than 100,000 volunteers did similar work with Christmas in April chapters nationwide.

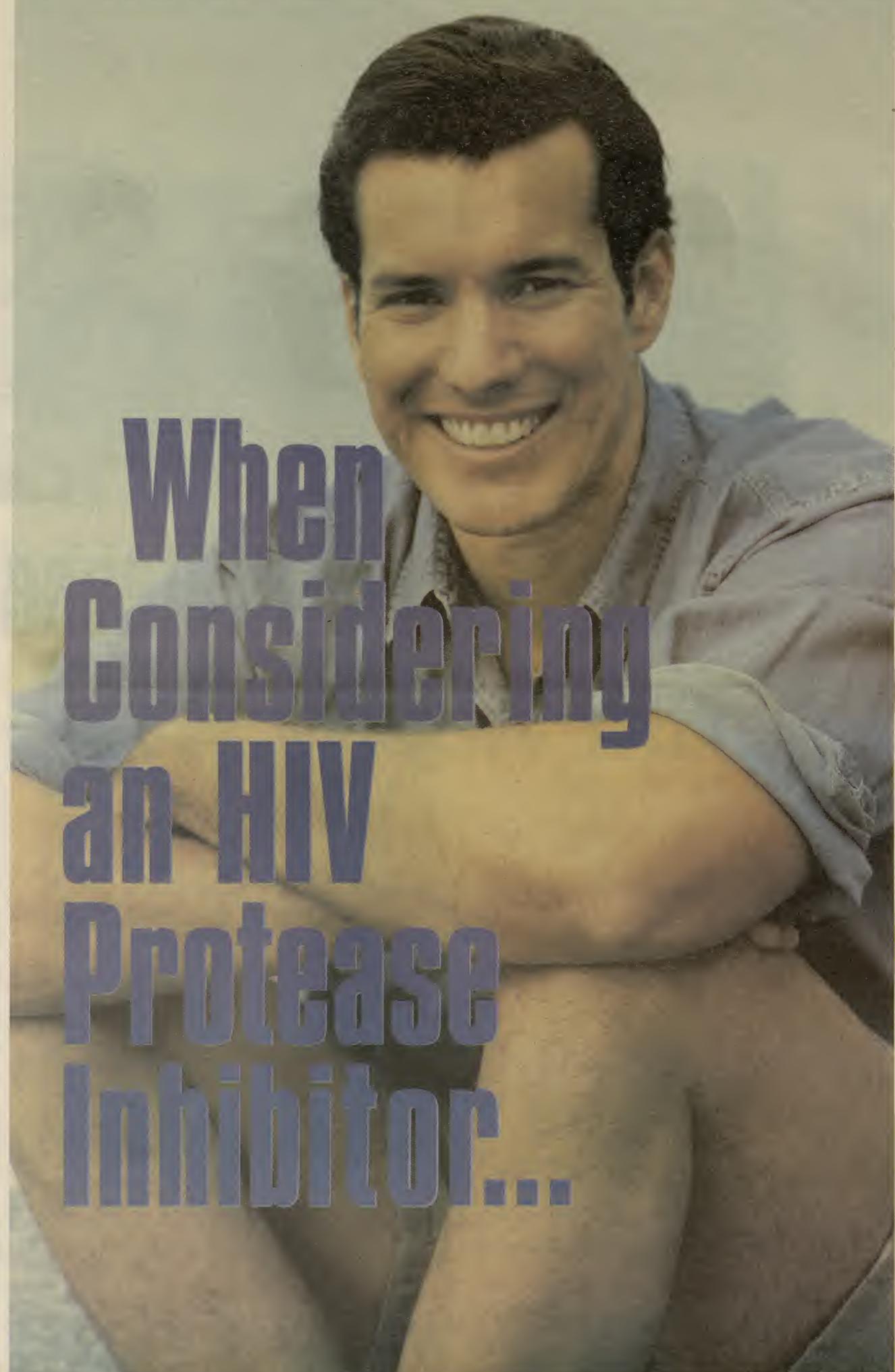
About 50 Sha'ar Zahav volunteers worked Sunday to help paint the Asian/Pacific Islanders Wellness Center at 730 Polk Street. The Wellness Center is the largest comprehensive AIDS service provider for Asian and Pacific Islander people in the United States.

The group followed about 75 Christmas in April workers who began painting on Saturday. Altman said that the Wellness Center's director estimated the total value in donated paint and volunteer labor at about \$25,000.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (which means "Golden Gate" in Hebrew) is a Reform synagogue in

San Francisco with major outreach to gay and lesbian Jews. Altman said Sha'ar Zahav formed in a time when gay and lesbian Jews were being rejected from their synagogues. Nowadays, Altman said, many Conservative and Reform synagogues welcome their gay and lesbian members, but Sha'ar Zahav still plays an important role in the city's Jewish and queer communities. ▼

For more information on Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, call (415) 441-7944 or visit the congregation at 220 Danvers (at Caselli).



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INVIRASE®
(saquinavir mesylate)
Capsules 200mg
Therapy You Can Live With

Please see brief summary of product information on the adjacent page.

INVIRASE®

(saquinavir mesylate)

Capsules 200 mg

Therapy You Can Live With

Before prescribing, please consult complete product information, a summary of which follows:

CONTRAINDICATIONS: INVIRASE is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to saquinavir or to any of the components contained in the capsule.

PRECAUTIONS: General: The safety profile of INVIRASE in children younger than 16 years has not been established.

If a serious or severe toxicity occurs during treatment with INVIRASE, INVIRASE should be interrupted until the etiology of the event is identified or the toxicity resolved. At this time, resumption of treatment with full dose INVIRASE may be considered. For nucleoside analogues used in combination with INVIRASE, physicians should refer to the complete product information for these drugs for dose adjustment recommendations and for information regarding drug-associated adverse reactions.

Caution should be exercised when administering INVIRASE to patients with hepatic insufficiency since patients with baseline liver function tests >5 times the upper limit of normal were not included in clinical studies.

Drug Interactions: Metabolism: Enzyme inducers: INVIRASE should not be administered concomitantly with rifampin, since rifampin decreases saquinavir concentrations by 80% (see complete product information, CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics). Rifabutin also substantially reduces saquinavir plasma concentrations by 40%. Other drugs that induce CYP3A4 (eg, phenobarbital, phenytoin, desmopressin, carbamazepine) may also reduce saquinavir plasma concentrations. If therapy with such drugs is warranted, physicians should consider using alternatives when a patient is taking INVIRASE.

Other Potential Interactions: Coadministration of terfenadine, astemizole or cisapride with drugs that are known to be potent inhibitors of the cytochrome P4503A pathway (ie, ketocazole, itraconazole, etc.) may lead to elevated plasma concentrations of terfenadine, astemizole or cisapride, which may in turn prolong QT intervals leading to rare cases of serious cardiovascular arrhythmias. Therefore, INVIRASE should not be coadministered with terfenadine, astemizole or cisapride. Coadministration of INVIRASE and terfenadine, astemizole or cisapride have not been conducted. Physicians should use alternatives to terfenadine, astemizole or cisapride when a patient is taking INVIRASE. Other compounds that are substrates of CYP3A4 (eg, calcium channel blockers, diltiazem, disopyramide, quinidine, triazolam) may have elevated plasma concentrations when coadministered with INVIRASE; therefore, patients should be monitored for toxicities associated with such drugs.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenesis: Carcinogenicity studies in rats and mice have not yet been completed.

Mutagenesis: Mutagenicity and genotoxicity studies, with and without metabolic activation where appropriate, have shown that saquinavir has no mutagenicity in vitro in either bacterial (Ames test) or mammalian cells (Chinese hamster lung (V79/HRPT test), mouse lymphoma L5178Y, Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) test). In the mouse micronucleus assay or in vitro in human peripheral blood lymphocytes, and does not induce primary DNA damage in the uncheckered DNA synthesis test.

Impairment of Fertility: Fertility and reproductive performance were not affected in rats at plasma exposures (AUC values) up to five times those achieved in humans at the recommended dose.

Pregnancy: Teratogenic Effects: Category B. Reproduction studies conducted with saquinavir in rats have shown no embryotoxicity or teratogenicity at plasma exposures (AUC values) up to five times those achieved in humans at the recommended dose or in rabbits at plasma exposures four times those achieved at the recommended clinical dose. Studies in rats indicated that exposure to saquinavir from late pregnancy through lactation at plasma concentrations (AUC values) up to five times those achieved in humans at the recommended dose had no effect on the survival, growth and development of offspring to weaning. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, INVIRASE should be used during pregnancy after taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother. Presently, there are no reports of infants being born after women receiving INVIRASE in clinical trials before pregnancy.

Nursing Mothers: The US Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises HIV-infected women not to breastfeed to avoid postnatal transmission of HIV to a child who may not yet be infected. It is not known whether INVIRASE is excreted in human milk.

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness of INVIRASE in HIV-infected children or adolescents younger than 16 years of age have not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS (see PRECAUTIONS): The safety of INVIRASE was studied in 688 patients who received the drug either alone or in combination with zidovudine (ZDV) and/or HIV-1 (zalcitabine, ddC). The majority of adverse events were of mild intensity. The most frequently reported adverse events among patients receiving INVIRASE (excluding those toxicities known to be associated with ZDV and ddC) were diarrhea, abdominal discomfort and nausea.

INVIRASE did not alter the pattern, frequency or severity of known major toxicities associated with the use of HMD and/or ZDV. Physicians should refer to the complete product information for these drugs (or other antiretroviral agents as appropriate) for drug-associated adverse reactions to other nucleoside analogues.

In an open-label protocol, NIV1516, in which 33 patients received treatment with INVIRASE, ZDV and lamivudine for 4 to 16 weeks, no unexpected toxicities were reported.

Table A lists clinical adverse events that occurred in ≥2% of patients receiving INVIRASE 600 mg HMD alone or in combination with ZDV and/or HMD in two trials. Median duration of treatment in NIV1425/CTG229 (triple-combination study) was 48 weeks; median duration of treatment among the surrogacy analysis cohort is reported for safety (n=451) in NIV1256 was 42 weeks.

Rare occurrences of the following serious adverse experiences have been reported during clinical trials of INVIRASE and were considered at least possibly related to use of study drugs: confusion, ataxia and weakness; acute myeloblastic leukemia; hemolytic uremic syndrome; Stevens Johnson syndrome; sepsis; septic emboli; septic shock; thrombocytopenia associated with increased liver function tests; lactic acidosis; rhabdomyolysis; rhabdomyopathy; rhabdomyolysis associated with increased serum creatinine kinase levels; Grade 4 hepatitis; Grade 4 elevated liver function tests; jaundice, ascites, and right and left upper quadrant abdominal pain; drug fever; pancreatitis leading to death; nephritis; thrombocytopenia and intracranial hemorrhage leading to death; peripheral vasoconstriction; intestinal obstruction. These events were reported from a database of >6000 patients. Over 100 patients on saquinavir therapy have been followed for >2 years.

INVIRASE® (saquinavir mesylate)

Table A. Percentage of Patients, by Study Arm, with Clinical Adverse Experiences Considered at Least Possibly Related to Study Drug or of Unknown Relationship and of Moderate, Severe or Life-threatening Intensity, Occurring in ≥2% of Patients in NIV1425/ACTG229 and NIV1256

ADVERSE EVENT	NIV1425/ACTG229			NIV1256		
	SAO-ZDV n=99	SAO+ddC-ZDV n=98	ddC-ZDV n=100	ddC n=145	SAO n=159	SAO+ddC n=147
GASTROINTESTINAL						
Diarrhea	3.0	1.0	4.0	1.4	3.8	3.4
Abdominal Discomfort	2.0	3.1	4.0	1.4	1.3	0.7
Nausea	-	3.1	3.0	2.7	1.9	0.7
Dyspepsia	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.1	-	0.7
Abdominal Pain	2.0	1.0	2.0	0.7	1.9	0.7
Mucous Diarrhea	-	-	4.0	1.4	-	0.7
Bilious Stools/Loose Motion	-	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.5	4.1
CENTRAL AND PERIPHERAL NERVOUS SYSTEM						
Headache	2.0	2.0	2.0	4.1	0.6	0.7
Paresthesia	2.0	3.1	4.0	0.7	1.0	1.0
Extremity Numbness	2.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	0.7
Dizziness	-	2.0	1.0	-	-	-
Peripheral Neuropathy	-	1.0	2.0	5.5	-	4.8
BODY AS A WHOLE						
Asthenia	6.1	9.2	10.0	0.7	1.3	0.7
Appetite Disturbances	-	1.0	2.0	-	-	-
Rash	-	-	3.0	0.7	1.3	1.4
Pruritis	-	-	2.0	-	-	-
SODIUM AND APPENDAGES						
Joint Pain	-	-	-	-	-	-
MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS						
Musculoskeletal Pain	2.0	2.0	4.0	-	0.6	0.7
Myalgia	1.0	-	3.0	1.4	-	-

* Indicates no events reported

Table B shows the percentage of patients with marked laboratory abnormalities in studies NIV1425/ACTG229 and NIV1256. Marked laboratory abnormalities are defined as a Grade 3 or 4 abnormality in a patient with a normal baseline value or a Grade 4 abnormality in a patient with a Grade 1 abnormality at baseline (ACTG Grading System).

Table B. Percentage of Patients, by Treatment Group, with Marked Laboratory Abnormalities*

	NIV1425/ACTG229			NIV1256		
	SAO-ZDV n=99	SAO-ZDV+ddC n=98	ZDV+ddC n=100	dDC n=145	SAO n=159	SAO+ddC n=147
BIOCHEMISTRY						
Calcium (high)	1	0	0	<1	0	0
Dihydroxyacetonephosphate	10	12	7	5	4	7
Glucose (low)	0	0	0	4	5	4
Phosphorus	2	1	0	0	0	0
Potassium (high)	0	0	0	1	<1	<1
Potassium (low)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serum Amylase	2	1	1	<1	<1	2
SGOT (AST)	2	2	0	3	<1	<1
SGPT (ALT)	0	3	1	3	<1	<1
Total Bilirubin	1	0	0	0	<1	0
Urea Nitrogen	0	0	1	Net assessed	Net assessed	Net assessed
HEMATOLOGY						
Neutrophils (low)	2	2	8	0	0	0
Hemoglobin (low)	0	0	1	0	<1	0
Platelets (low)	0	0	2	0	0	<1
ENDOCRINE/METABOLIC						
Dehydroepiandrosterone, dry eye syndrome, hyperglycemia, weight increase, nephrothrombosis						
Gastric Inflammation, constipation, dysphagia, eructation, flatulence, face discoloration, gastralgia, gastritis, gastrointestinal bleeding, pain, glossitis, glomerulonephritis, hypertension, hypotension, nephrothrombosis, melena, pain peritoneal, painful defecation, paroxysms, penile disorder, salivary glands disorder, stomatitis, tooth disorder, vomiting						
HAEMATOLOGIC						
Anemia, microhemorrhages, pancytopenia, splenomegaly, thrombocytopenia						
MUSCULOSKELETAL						
Arthritis, back pain, cramps muscle, musculoskeletal disorders, stiffness, tissue changes, trauma						
NEUROLOGICAL						
Agitation, amnesia, anxiety, depression, dreaming excessive, euphoria, hallucination, insomnia, intellectual ability reduced, irritability, memory loss, mood change, nervousness, somnolence, speech disorder						
REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM						
Precocious puberty, delayed pubescence, vaginal discharge, vaginal bleeding						
RESPIRATORY						
Asthma, bronchitis, cough, dyspnea, epistaxis, hemoptysis, laryngitis, pharyngitis, pneumonia, respiratory disorder, rhinitis, sinusitis, upper respiratory tract infection						
SKIN AND APPENDAGES						
Acne, dermatitis, dermatochalasis, seborrheic eczema, erythema, folliculitis, furunculosis, hair changes, hot flashes, pruritis, seborrheic dermatitis, rash maculopapular, skin disorder, skin nodule, skin ulceration, sweat rash, urticaria, verucca, xerosis						
SPECIAL SENSES						
Blurred vision, earache, ear pressure, eye irritation, hearing decreased, otitis, taste alteration, tinnitus, visual disturbance						
URINARY SYSTEM						
Incontinence, urinary tract infection						
OVERDOSAGE						
No acute toxicities or sequelae were noted in 1 patient who ingested 8 grams of INVIRASE as a single dose. The patient was treated with induction of emesis within 2 to 4 hours after ingestion. In an exploratory Phase 2 study of oral dosing with INVIRASE at 2000 mg/day (1200 mg q48h), there were no serious toxicities reported through the first 25 days of treatment.						
HOW SUPPLIED:						
INVIRASE 200-mg capsules are light brown and green opaque capsules with ROCHE and 0245 imprinted on the capsule shell - bottles of 270 (NDC 0004-0245-05).						
The capsules should be stored at 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C) in tightly closed bottles.						

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Feds haven't moved since getting Flower Therapy medical marijuana

by Cynthia Laird

No formal charges have been filed and no arrests have been made in connection with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) raid on the Flower Therapy medical marijuana center last week.

On Wednesday, April 23, several hundred medical marijuana supporters marched to the Federal Building to protest the DEA raid, which took place April 21 at around 6:30 a.m., when no one was at the center.

Beth Moore, a co-owner of Flower Therapy, said the center remains open at 3180 17th Street.

"We're getting really, really good support," Moore said, adding that the club has received donations from concerned community members.

San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan told the Bay Area Reporter that he still has not personally spoken with U.S. Attorney Michael Yamaguchi, who would presumably handle any prosecution since it was a federal search warrant that agents executed. During a press conference last week, Hallinan said that Yamaguchi was home sick the day of the raid.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Owen E.

Woodruff, Jr. signed the warrant on April 17. It was then ordered sealed until the raid.

"Mr. Yamaguchi did talk with my chief assistant, Richard Iglesias. He [Yamaguchi] hadn't been aware of the incident before it happened," Hallinan told the B.A.R. He added that apparently Yamaguchi was upset with comments Hallinan made to the media. "He was kind of miffed."

Hallinan has asked that the U.S. Attorney's office not accept the case. Yamaguchi's office has refused to comment on the issue. The DEA is no longer commenting, either. It is not known if or when federal authorities will proceed with the matter.

"From our view, this case does not fall under federal jurisdiction," Hallinan said last week.

Moore said Flower Therapy workers met with their attorney Tuesday, April 29 to discuss the situation.

Armed DEA agents kicked in Flower Therapy's door and seized 331 marijuana plants and \$8,000 worth of growing equipment during the raid. The vast majority of pot plants were only a few inches high, resulting in between two and three pounds being confiscated. Federal authorities are usually involved in cases with a much



Jane Philomen Cleland

Vocal opposition: Hundreds marched April 23 to the Federal Building to protest the DEA raid.

greater quantity, Hallinan said.

"They were just brutal," Moore said, adding that Flower Therapy's damaged door has been repaired.

Hallinan has criticized the raid as unnecessary, and said agents should simply have called his office if they had a problem with Flower Therapy's medical marijuana distribution. The center was

designated as a primary caregiver by San Francisco Superior Court Judge David Garcia.

Additionally, Hallinan said that since last year's passage of Proposition 215, his office has worked with the Department of Public Health to develop guidelines for medical marijuana distribution centers. Flower Therapy, with about 1,000 members, is smaller than the 4,000-member Cannabis Cultivators Club (the former Cannabis Buyers Club).

DEA spokesman Stan Vigar said last week that agents believed Flower Therapy was a "large-scale marijuana-growing operation." Apparently, DEA agents learned of Flower Therapy from a local television news report. ▼



SF sheriff OKs medical pot in jail

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco Sheriff Mike Hennessey has said he will allow the use of medical marijuana by inmates if their circumstances fall under the guidelines of state Proposition 215.

Since jail officials said that getting the pot would pose some problems, the Cannabis Cultivators Club has offered to help out on a temporary basis, if the need arises. So far, no inmates have requested the medical herb.

Hennessey was asked about the issue by a local legal newspaper; Eileen Hirst, the sheriff's chief of staff, said inmates would have to be provided with a prescription. Medical staff at the jail would then alert sheriff's personnel to the matter.

"It would have to be a bona fide doctor's prescription," Hirst said, adding that the sheriff's department would not be in the business of actually procuring pot for inmates.

Unlike some counties, medical matters at San Francisco's jails are handled by the Department of Public Health, not the sheriff's office. Dr. Joe Goldenson is the medical director for the jails.

"We don't meddle in medical affairs, and they [jail medical staff] don't meddle in corrections affairs," said Hirst.

There are approximately 2,000 people incarcerated in the city; there are two jails in San Bruno, two at the Hall of Justice, and one in the new building behind the Hall. Another facility used for intake would not be affected, Hirst said.

There are less than 100 people in the jail system who are either HIV-infected or have some other life-threatening illness. In certain situations, Goldenson said he

would defer to the recommendation of an inmate's personal physician. To date, none of the doctors working at the jails have identified inmates for medical marijuana usage, Goldenson said.

Goldenson said that getting the pot would be difficult for his office.

"I'm not saying we wouldn't do it; it would be problematic for us to get it," Goldenson told the B.A.R. "I don't have a source."

He added the situation would be different if an inmate had been prescribed medical marijuana before going to jail. In those instances, should any occur, getting the pot to the inmate would not be as difficult, since those people would already have a source.

And, where would inmates smoke the joints? Hirst said all jails are non-smoking facilities.

"We would have to find a room

where the person could go by themselves and smoke it in there," she said.

Dennis Peron of the Cannabis Cultivators Club (CCC) said he'd be happy to help out, temporarily, that is.

"We'd have a scholarship program for patients in jail and would provide it for at least 20 people as an interim measure," Peron told the B.A.R.

His suggestion for a long-term solution is imaginative. Inmates at one of the San Bruno jails could start cultivating their own medical cannabis. Land there is currently used for farming vegetables.

"I helped start that farm when I was there in 1978," Peron said.

The club's new packages would be ideal, Peron explained, as then the staff wouldn't actually be handling the marijuana. ▼

Hemp author to speak at CHAMP Monday

by Cynthia Laird

Cannabis Helping Alleviate Medical Problems (CHAMP) is hosting an evening with Chris Conrad, author of the book *Hemp for Health, and Hemp, Lifeline to the Future* Monday, May 5 in San Francisco.

Conrad's presentation will explore the biology, basic science, and research of cannabis as a plant medicine. A question and answer session will follow his remarks. The event is free, and seating is limited to 125 persons.

CHAMP staff said this event is part of the group's commitment to harm reduction and minimizing the potential harm of a plant medicine while maximizing the benefits to effect quality of life.

Interested people should make reservations. ▼

The presentation begins at 7:30 p.m. CHAMP is located at 194 Church Street, at Market and 14th streets. To RSVP, call (415) 861-1040.



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Needle exchange bill clears state Senate

Watson bill expected to go to Assembly

by Cynthia Laird

State legislators in Sacramento are again attempting to get a bill passed that would establish needle exchange pilot programs in San Francisco and other California cities and counties; an identical measure failed on the Senate floor last May.

This year things may be different, at least in the Senate and probably the Assembly. An aide to state Senator Diane Watson, D-Los Angeles, told the B.A.R. they expect Watson's bill, SB 885, not only to clear the Senate, but also to get out of the Assembly and onto Governor Pete Wilson's desk this year.

SB 885 would allow cities or counties to establish a clean needle and syringe exchange pilot project at the request of the municipality's board of supervisors or city council and health officer. Under Watson's legislation, an injection drug user would be able to exchange his used syringe for a single clean one without a prescription at a specific site. The exchange sites would be staffed by qualified individuals.

The bill breezed through the senate's Health and Human Services Committee last week with a 6-1 vote. State Senator Ray Haynes, R-Riverside, was the lone opponent. It is scheduled to go before the Appropriations Com-



Diane Watson

mittee next week; it then moves to the Assembly if it passes.

Last Monday, April 28, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution in support of Watson's bill. Berkeley Mayor Shirley Dean has also written a letter of support, and the city council is expected to do the same.

Dean said that HIV transmission rates in Berkeley have declined significantly since the program started in 1992. The proportion of injection drug users (IDU) as a risk category has remained stable at 10-11 percent in Berkeley, while surrounding areas such as Contra Costa County

have seen dramatic increases in the IDU risk category. The San Francisco and Berkeley programs operate under a continuous state of emergency.

Eddie Washington, Watson's aide, said that this year, Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, a Republican, supports the bill.

Los Angeles also operates a needle exchange program under emergency provisions, said a spokesman at the city's AIDS Office. Washington said the cities of San Jose and Long Beach also support the legislation.

Wilson has vetoed similar bills before, but Washington said proponents hope to have a strong lobbying effort this year by AIDS organizations and other community members.

He hopes Bay Area groups will join with other agency representatives in Sacramento to demonstrate strong support for the program.

Randy Allgaier at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation told the B.A.R. that they support the bill and supported it in committee. Whether Wilson will sign the legislation is an open question.

Similar bills have reached Wilson's desk twice before, but both were vetoed.

"My hope is that sooner or later, Governor Wilson will follow the science on this issue. My hope springs eternal," Allgaier told the B.A.R. ▼

Lungren does it again

Cal Attorney General files against gay marriage in Hawaii

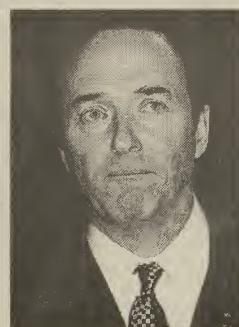
by Marghe Covino

California Attorney General Dan Lungren, in the name of the people of the State of California, has quietly filed an amicus brief with the state Supreme Court of Hawaii, urging justices to overturn a lower court's ruling that would allow same-sex marriages.

Lungren's action is the latest in a series of activities which target the civil rights of gay and lesbian citizens. A few years ago, he filed an amicus brief with the United States Supreme Court in support of Colorado's Amendment 2, under the guise of defending states' rights.

As of last week, the California state legislature refused passage of a bill that would have blocked recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states, and gay activists are concerned that Lungren is willing to usurp the powers of the legislature for his own ends.

Last month Lungren was a key figure addressing the convention



Dan Lungren

citizens. This is the second time he's gone out of state to other courts, using taxpayer money—in effect some of our own gay and lesbian tax money—to deny us our rights.

"If he really believes in states' rights, why is he injecting the People of the Sovereign State of California into the business of the People of the Sovereign State of Hawaii?" Slogan asked. "And he filed the amicus brief on the sly, no press conference, no announcement, just a sneak attack."

Ten other states filed Friend of the Court briefs with the Hawaii Supreme Court, urging the Supreme Court to overturn Judge Chang's ruling. They are: Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, South Dakota, Colorado, Missouri, Idaho, Nebraska and Michigan. ▼

Complaints can be filed in individual states, and tax-deductible donations may be sent to Marriage Project Hawaii, P.O. Box 11600, Honolulu, HI 96828

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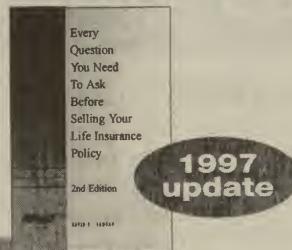
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Copello to leave AIDS Office, will run agency in Jacksonville

by Cynthia Laird

Dr. Gene Copello, the health and prevention services branch chief for the Department of Public Health AIDS Office, has announced his resignation and will be moving to Jacksonville, Florida to become executive director of an AIDS service organization. He leaves at the end of May.

The news was unexpected. Copello started at the AIDS Office about a year ago, after six years as director of the San Mateo County AIDS Program. In San Francisco, his first priority was to complete the merger between the health services and prevention services divisions of the AIDS Office. That has resulted in more efficiency and improved community relations.

Next month, Copello takes the helm at Northeast Florida AIDS Network, one of the major AIDS service organizations in Jacksonville, a city of one million people. The agency provides prevention, social services, case management, medical care coordination, and public policy. It serves about 2,000 clients in Jacksonville and seven surrounding counties.



Dr. Gene Copello

In addition, through an affiliation between universities and community-based organizations in Florida, he will be teaching at the University of North Florida. Copello holds a doctorate degree in medical ethics and public policy from Vanderbilt University. In Florida, he'll be teaching HIV-related public policy and medical ethics to nursing and medical students, something he is looking forward to doing.

Copello, who has spent the last 14 years in the AIDS field both in California and Tennessee, said he can make a greater impact on the epidemic in Florida, which now ranks behind New York and California in the number of AIDS cases. The South as a region has the fastest rate of new AIDS cases.

"It's ironic that I'm returning to the South, where I believe I can make the most difference, and really speaks to how the epidemic is changing. Seven years ago, AIDS was just barely impacting the South," Copello told the B.A.R. "Personally, I felt disappointed that there wasn't as much contact with the consumer population, and I really began to miss that perspective that is really important."

Accomplished official

During his tenure, Copello cited several accomplishments. The reorganization of the health and prevention branches has led to a streamlining in the contracts process, something that's critical to agencies receiving funding through the AIDS Office.

Additionally, the office has significantly increased staff support to the city's two planning councils, the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council (Ryan White CARE Council) and the HIV Prevention Planning Council (HPPC). Copello was a co-chair on the HPPC and served as a liaison to the HIV health services council.

"I also feel we were able to maintain health and prevention services in the city, even facing

federal funding changes," he said, citing the extra \$2 million in CARE money and the preservation of ADAP funds.

The AIDS Office is a large bureaucracy, and as a result, it takes time to get things done. There was some frustration with that, although Copello said San Francisco does a better job than most other cities. He also believes the city has responded to changes in the epidemic, but that more needs to be done, particularly around the HIV health services council.

"The San Francisco model has to be reevaluated," he said, suggesting that some service categories may not be needed, or that funds may need to be increased for others.

Copello's departure will leave a void in the AIDS Office. Dr. Mitch Katz, director, told the B.A.R. that he hasn't made any decisions regarding the position.

"We will miss him. He has tremendously helped in the planning process [of the two councils]," Katz said, adding Copello's work in completing the reorganization was also effective.

Dr. Virginia Cafaro, a member of the HIV health services council, agreed. "I think it's a loss to the HIV community, and specifically the council. He's an intelligent, fair person who does see the big picture."

AIDS activist Michael Petrelis, often a vocal critic of the AIDS Office, acknowledged Copello's willingness to address issues, and said an example of his accomplishment is the distribution of anal condoms at city health centers.

In addition to his work here, Copello was also involved with the LIFE Lobby in Sacramento and served as the board's co-chair. The lobbying group works on behalf of AIDS issues and others affecting the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community.

"I've always felt you do better locally if you have influence at the state level," he said. ▼

Jane Philomen Cleland

COMMUNITY NEWS



AIDS Czar Sandy Thurman (left) chats with SFAF's Jane Breyer and Pat Christen (right).

New AIDS czar visits SF

Government must take politics out of public health, Thurman tells SFAF crowd

by Cynthia Laird

Saying "we must take the politics out of public health," and calling for politicians to stand clear to "let science lead" on needle exchange programs, newly appointed AIDS Czar Sandy Thurman was the unannounced guest last week at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's 10th annual Leadership Dinner.

Thurman, who started work this week as President Clinton's third director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, told the B.A.R. that she flew to the city especially for the SFAF event, held Thursday, April 24 at Fort Mason's Festival Pavilion. About 1,000 people attended.

"San Francisco will play a pivotal role in what happens in Washington and the nation on this issue [needle exchange]," Thurman told the crowd of corporate leaders, politicians, local public health officials, and others.

She spoke in support of San Francisco's program, which – although banned from receiving federal funds and state money – has operated for many years. Last year, 2.1 million clean syringes were exchanged through 61,000 needle exchange contacts.

Thurman, who told the audience that she and SFAF Executive Director Pat Christen have been good friends for several years, praised Christen's tenure at the SFAF, one of the largest AIDS service organizations in the nation with a \$16 million annual budget.

"I'm honored to have worked with Pat Christen and her staff over the last ten years," Thurman said, adding that she was at SFAF's event because of her friendship with Christen. "She [Christen] continues to inspire me."

She also spoke of the significance SFAF has played in the development of national AIDS policies over the years. "It was in the foundation's conference room that the [Ryan White] CARE Act was drafted. It was this city that targeted campaigns for gay youth and public/private partnerships," Thurman said.

One of the themes at the dinner was that even with the advent

of protease inhibitors, the need for AIDS services is more urgent than ever.

"We have got to do better. New drugs mean absolutely nothing to people who can't get them," said Thurman.

Paul Wisotzky, the openly gay chair of SFAF's board of directors and a person living with AIDS, said the foundation is "stronger than ever," thanks to the "talented and highly committed executive director" and agency staff and volunteers.

The board of directors is all-volunteer and passionate about work," Wisotzky said.

He said that while he has benefited from the new treatments, he and the rest of SFAF's board know that the medications have not helped everyone. Wisotzky has lived with HIV for the last 13 years; he's been diagnosed with AIDS for the past three years.

"People of color and women are not experiencing the same decline [in death rates]," Wisotzky said. "We must always remember that the epidemic is not over until it is over for everybody, everywhere."

Listen slower

During her remarks, Christen said people need to be "listening more slowly" when it comes to those living with HIV/AIDS.

"Generally, AIDS service organizations, my own included, and AIDS activists could use some work in the listening department," she said. "Perhaps we are afraid that if we genuinely listen to what people affected by HIV say about their needs, we will be found lacking. We are afraid to listen, so instead we shout."

"We try to out-yell one another in the hope that if we scream the loudest, our perspective will prevail," Christen added.

The foundation's clients have expressed several things recently. While at first the statements seem contradictory, they "are all truths," she noted.

"Forced to choose, many of our clients would pick housing over HIV treatment. Most of the individuals who expressed this point of view have been homeless," Christen said. "On the other hand, forced to choose, many of

our clients would take HIV treatments over housing. Most of the individuals who expressed this point of view have never been homeless."

Both are choices people should never have to make, Christen said.

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Robert A. Dean
 Nov. 2, 1965 – April 6, 1997



John Michael Kovach
 April 21, 1997



John Michael Kovach, 50, passed away on April 21 at Oak Park Convalescent Hospital in Pleasant Hill. John had been living with AIDS since 1994.

Born in Cambridge, Mass., John graduated from Baltimore City College in 1964. He received a Bachelor of Music degree from Syracuse University in 1973.

John settled in San Francisco in 1974, and was for a time a pianist for the SF Ballet and School. He read widely and was fluent in nine languages.

In 1969, he was a co-founder of the Syracuse Gay Freedom League and served as its first president. In 1978, he co-founded the SF Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, serving as the band's first office manager. John worked as a volunteer "buddy" for the AIDS Project of Contra Costa for 10 years. He occasionally would help out the SF Gay Men's Chorus as a pianist. At his death he was assembling a performance diary of the legendary Norwegian soprano Kirsten Flagstad. The work continues in capable hands.

John is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Kovach of Baltimore, Md., and brother, Ronald Kovach of Washington, D.C.

Private services will be held.

Nicholas Mancini
 April 9, 1960 – April 6, 1997



The ingenious force of Nick Mancini left our earth during the early morning hours of April 6. For those of us who knew Nick, his spirit and memory will continue to fill our lives. Nick, dear

friend, we miss you more than any words can describe.

Nick was born to Gloria and Nick Mancini in Norristown, Penn., and grew up there along with his three sisters, Julie, Monica and Cindy. He is also survived by seven beautiful nieces and nephews whom he absolutely adored.

After Pennsylvania, Nick fulfilled his destiny and drove cross-country to San Francisco, and like so many, never left. He had many jobs, but his last two were of note. He managed the Grubstake during the early-to-mid 1980s when it was worth eating there, and it was there he met two of his closest friends, Maggie Crim, whom he loved and respected, and Jacob Campbell, who became a close confidant. Then came Circuit City, where he met his husband of seven years, Mark Ruiz.

He will be missed by friends Rocky, Raven, Stephen, Philip and Mary Ann. Nick, you left much too soon, and I will always love you. Till we meet again. – Mark

Parm Nelson
 Sept. 5, 1946 – April 11, 1997



Parm passed away at home, surrounded with the love and care of his partner, Robert Frey, and his Aunt Jean, after battling melanoma for the past several months. Always active in the community, Parm was a founding member of the San Francisco Saddletramps and danced with them for the past 10 years. He was also a founding member of the men's group MAX. In recent years, Parm was instrumental in the founding of The Richmond/Ermet Foundation, an agency dedicated to raising funds for AIDS service provider organizations in the Bay Area through entertainment events.

Parm was born in Couer d'Alene, Idaho, where he grew up; attended the University of Idaho; and received his MBA from UC Berkeley. He worked as controller at several Bay Area companies before launching his own private consulting practice in data processing and computing support services. He also operated San Francisco Cottage in the Castro. He is survived by his parents, Ralph and Helen; brothers, Ralph Jr. and Doug; sisters, Susan, Carolyn and Jean; and his partner, Robert.

Parm's gentle spirit will be missed by all who knew him. He and his family request any donations be made in his name to the Northern California Melanoma Center at St. Francis Hospital or to The Richmond/Ermet Foundation at 2870 California St., SF, CA 94115.

Tom Roller
 March 18, 1997



Tom Roller, 50, died March 18 in Las Vegas, Nev. A longtime resident of California, Tom spent many years in San Francisco. He proudly served as Grand Duke XIV and was very active in the Imperial Court System. He was also Leather Daddy 1985 and frequented SoMa and the Eagle.

In Las Vegas, Tom was a very active member of Aid for AIDS and of the Nevada Speakers' Bureau as co-coordinator of Project Uptown. At the time of his death, he was working as a security

guard at Nevada Landing Casino.

Tom is survived by his father, Richard of Lakeland, Fla.; brothers, Richard, Joe and Jim; sister, Patty; two nephews; one niece; one grandnephew; and former partner, Roger Ludwig. Memorial contributions can be made to Aid for AIDS of Nevada, 2300 South Rancho Dr., Ste. 211, Las Vegas, NV 89102.

David William Sacre
 April 22, 1997



David Sacre passed away on April 22 from complications following the complete collapse of his immune system. Although he may not have been personally known to many people, his work was enjoyed by thousands. David tuned and maintained the great Ruffatti organ in San Francisco's Davies Symphony Hall. Until his illness, he was also organist for many years at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in the Mission.

Born in Brisbane, Australia, David immigrated to the U.S. in the early '70s. Among his family, he is survived only by his cousin, Barbara Hemming. However, his passing is mourned by a host of friends in the organ world; by his many friends at the Wooden Horse and the Blue Muse, where he will be sorely missed; and by his good friend, Michael Gronski, who cared for him in his final weeks.

No funeral services will be held. However, a memorial service will be announced at a later date and will probably be held in Davies Symphony Hall. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the David William Sacre Memorial Organ Fund, instituted to help restore the recently burned organ at St. Peter's. Donations may be sent to the fund c/o Roy Powlan, Attorney, P.O. Box 6312, Moraga, CA 94570.

David John Zaffer
 Nov. 4, 1949 – March 17, 1997



David, 47, passed away on March 17 at his home in Long Beach, Calif. He was born to Gladys and Martin Zaffer in Dearborn, Mich. He leaves behind sisters, Donna Jean, Denise and Tori, and brothers, Gregory and Charles.

David excelled in his career and rose to the position of master chef. In 1970, he started cooking in New Orleans, where he worked at Cafe Creole, Brennan's and the Sheraton Chateau-LeMoyne Hotel. After training as a pastry chef, David moved to Guerneville, Calif., where he worked as a chef at Fife's. Shortly thereafter, he moved to San Francisco, where in 1987, he and his partner, Beau Spacek, opened Zaffer's. Over the years, David contributed articles to Cooks Magazine, Food and Wine, and to the food section of the Chronicle.

After Beau's death, their restaurant closed, and David went to work as executive chef at Macy's/SF. He retired in 1995 and moved to Long Beach in October 1996.

In keeping with David's wishes, his ashes will be mixed with Beau's and buried during a private ceremony on May 3 near Muir Woods north of San Francisco. Friends are gathering at The Edge Bar for cocktails between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., then at Leticia's 4-6 p.m.

played a part in shaping the foundation.

"She [Azzani] found for us our executive director, our friend, Pat Christen," Glenn said, adding Azzani is also known for her "zero tolerance policy for bullshit."

Azzani, vice president and partner of Korn/Ferry International, said, "The board has continued to get great people. I'm proud [we] continue needle exchange, the board's been out there on a limb."

She served on SFAF's board from 1990 to 1995.

Martin Delaney, founding director of Project Inform, received the Community Service Award for his ground-breaking work as a treatment advocate for people living with HIV throughout the country. ▀

AIDS Czar

◀ previous page

Another stark difference is the way men and women receive their information: "Most rely on treatment information from friends. Many of the men have large numbers of friends who are taking HIV-related drugs ... most of the women have few friends who also have HIV; they are more isolated and much less informed about their treatment options than their male counterparts."

Christen concluded by stating AIDS service providers, activists, and others all have the challenge to "accept that others may have needs and desires that are in opposition to our own, and are nevertheless valid and worthy of re-

Accounts and accountability

by Steven LeBlanc, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Accountability. Thousands of AIDS activists have fought for, and hundreds of thousands of PWAs have died waiting for accountability. Accountability from a president who wouldn't mention AIDS. Accountability from an FDA stuck in "business as usual" drug approval practices while a plague raged. Accountability from drug companies who saw AIDS as a way to cash in, rather than as a health crisis to be fought.

People with AIDS are again demanding accountability. This time, their demand is directed not at an unfeeling government or at greedy drug companies. Now their cry is directed to the paid AIDS professionals who run, and are building careers in, the numerous AIDS boards, service organizations, fundraising machines, and lobbying groups that live off the dollars that finally started to flow when our community grew too loud to ignore. HIV has moved from being a crisis to being a way of life inside of these organizations. These formerly community-based organizations have moved further and further away from community involvement in their decision-making. The community is invited to turn out by the thousands to raise funds for them, but disinherited to participate in determining how the money raised will be spent.

How many of the people who will participate in the San Francisco AIDS Walk this year, for example, know how decisions regarding the benefits are made? Most of the money from the Walk goes to the \$17 million San Francisco AIDS Foundation, which sponsors the Walk. The remainder of the money is allocated through a grant proposal process by a group of ten individuals, picked by an organization called the Tides Foundation, which was hired by the AIDS Foundation for the purpose. There is no mechanism for community input before the fact, or community oversight after the fact. Funding recommendations are then forwarded to Pat Christen, Executive Director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, for final approval.

Among the 36 winners are Catholic Charities of San Francisco; three organizations that provide AIDS services in Marin; the Shanti Project, specifically to de-

velop and implement a Client Information Services database; two organizations that provide acupuncture and Chinese medicine; and three Washington D.C. lobbying organizations, one of which exists to lobby for the city of San Francisco and other large cities on behalf of AIDS services for those cities.

Among the losers is ACT UP/Golden Gate, one of the few all-volunteer AIDS groups in Northern California, a group with no paid staff, which operates exclusively by open public meetings. Probably the only group that applied that both does not accept drug company

money and receives no government money, and that therefore relies exclusively on community support. Another loser is the STOP AIDS Project, the only group with a primary mission to target prevention efforts at male-male sex, still the chief mode of HIV transmission in San Francisco.

The denial of funding to these two organizations, and the recipient list, raises a number of questions. Why is community-raised money flowing to organizations, like Catholic Charities, that receive government money for the services they provide? Why is community-raised money going to pay for the development of a client services management database, something that you might

expect should come out of the administrative budgets of service providers? Why is money, raised to support PWAs in San Francisco, being directed to a Washington-based lobbying organization like the CAEAR Coalition that receives money from the city of San Francisco and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation to lobby on their behalf?

And while these questions might have some very good answers, these answers are apparently not available to the public. ACT UP/Golden Gate, surprised at the denial of funding to both itself and to the STOP AIDS Project, for more than a week unsuccessfully tried to get a representative of the Tides Foundation to simply return a phone call. After finally getting through, our questions were answered as follows:

"How were funding proposals reviewed and decided on?" Each funding application was reviewed by four community representatives picked by us."

"Could we find out who those people were?" No."

"Could we find out what groups those people represented or were associated with?" No."

"Could we get a copy of the scoring sheets for our grant proposal?" No." Could we find out who else was denied funding?" No."

"Could we find out how much

money was granted to groups that received money?" No."

"Could we meet with you to discuss our concerns about this decision-making process and the lack of accountability to people with AIDS for how this money was allocated?" Not until sometime in June. We're very busy."

Unacceptable ... but common

Answers like this wouldn't be acceptable coming from a drug company or government researcher. They shouldn't be acceptable coming from Tides, or indirectly, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Unfortunately, these kinds of answers are all-too-common when requesting information about a whole range of decisions made by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, or any number of other large AIDS institutions. The issue might be the Foundation and CAEAR Coalition's lobbying to divert federal AIDS dollars from drugs to services. Or a mass-mailing of scientifically outdated and overly conservative treatment recommendations. Or the appropriateness of compensation paid to top staff. Or the criteria for determining housing assistance priorities. Whatever the issue, large AIDS institutions in general, and the AIDS Foundation in particular, generally do not seek community input before decisions are made, and are resistant to accountability afterwards.

In order for a large, complex institution like SFAF to effectively thwart community input, it does

not need to be deliberately secretive, merely unwelcoming. I've experienced some of this first-hand. Since January of this year, I have expressed interest in learning more about the operation of the foundation. I have repeatedly asked to be invited to board meetings. Each time, my requests for information and involvement have been gently but firmly put off. "Oh, you won't find anything interesting about our board meetings," Board Chair Paul Wisotzky assured me. "We don't discuss the day-to-day work of the foundation, but set long-range goals. It's up to the staff to determine the means."

Despite repeated requests from myself and other activists to attend meaningful decision-making meetings at the AIDS Foundation, Timothy Rodrigues, full-time media spokesperson for the AIDS Foundation, responded to a reporter's question regarding closed decision-making with the statement: "No one has ever asked to come to one of our board meetings." Whether Timothy was merely misinformed or was deflecting the question without regard for the truth, his answer underscores one of the major obstacles community activists face in winning accountability from institutions like SFAF.

Those asking for accountability are generally people with AIDS, many with health problems, some with full-time jobs, some without, all with other activist priorities. Those resisting accountability are

next page ▶



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Muzzle velocity

by Jim Provenzano

Item: Teen Athletes Face Sex Assault Charges . "Three San Diego teenagers are facing felony charges for the alleged sexual assault of a fellow student as part of an initiation ritual for a high school sports team. The San Diego County District Attorney's Office said Wednesday, April 23 the teens - two 15-year-olds and one 16-year-old - are accused of attempting to sodomize another athlete who was trying out for the Rancho Bernardo High School freshman baseball team. Authorities say the incident occurred during some type of ritual the suspects allegedly conducted as a condition of joining the freshman baseball team. If convicted, the teen suspects face 13 years in jail." - UPI

Some sport is based on violence.

Some aspects of that violence have been filtered out through the centuries by things called rules.

I said some.

The totems of athletes, who are merely reincarnations of the Olympians and Titans of centuries gone past, if you believe that sort of thing, occasionally demand sacrifices. While the Olympian era of Greek history attempted to move culture away from the purely pagan (i.e., actual human sacrifices shifting to smaller tokens of cow meat, and then not even the good parts),

there still exists, it seems, a demand, a need, for sacrifice.

The gods demand it, and they usually get it.

I've been focusing on the modern version of such rituals like the story above. The adage that "boys will be boys" does not cut it for me. Not every young frail homosexual male has the guts and persistence of Jamie Nabozny to sue the incompetent schools that allow heinous crimes against kids to take place over and over again. Not everyone can tell the gods to piss off.

How do we deal with such fervor, or anger, all of it based on sexual repression, particularly within the athletic arena? In amateur sports it comes out in the little rapes like the one in San Diego. In pro ball it exhibits itself in the various sub-basements of massage therapists and "handlers," to kinesiologists, to dealers, and cell-phoned Jerry Maguires, who get to play with, and market, these guys' bodies.

Underneath these stadiums, and what the public sees as the great and noble realm of athletics, is a network of users and liars and abusers of athletes and fans alike.

This is the hypocrisy that is handed down to boys - and it is mostly boys who do the ganging up - who inherit the game of Pecking Order. The lineage of jock heroes trickles down from the grand arenas through the hands of these handlers and marketers

past the pockets of product promoters, onto the walls of teenagers who worship the gods that have been created.

Playing fair

What I am talking about is giving the voice of such kids a chance. It's about stamping out the "right" of a closet-case nut-job teen to act out his hatred for other gay boys in a way that will come to be regretted. I am not saying shut everybody up who says stupid things about gays and other minorities, which we cannot do since this is supposedly a liberty-loving democracy. I'm hoping that kids get their hate out in a healthy, productive manner, through playing fair, as difficult as that may be for them and their sometimes equally bale-filled coaches.

I'm talking about muzzle velocity. *The Dictionary of Sports*, edited and prepared by Parke Cummings, defines "muzzle velocity" as the speed of a bullet as it leaves the muzzle, usually measured in feet per second. But I'm going to invent a second meaning, in the fist-on-fist context, or gang context, or verbal harassment context, or rape context.

By muzzle velocity, I am asking, "How long can we hold back the dogs of hate?"

Take the recent story in Mountain View: five boys arrested for assault, torture, kidnapping, and other crimes. The lawyer blamed

Sports Complex



Nice young boy or sociopathic nut job?

it all on the boys' "love of professional wrestling, and we all know what goes on at the World Wrestling Federation."

Yes, we do. Men in tights hit each other with chairs. This is not wrestling. This is not sport. This is low-life brain-dead crap, a poor man's gladiator ring. It is not wrestling, and if the world of amateur wrestling (whose best include Olympians like Dennis Hall and Kurt Angle) had more power, they would be allowed to sue every absurd "Wrestling" Entertainment Corp. Inc., and prevent them from calling it wrestling. It is not wrestling. It is staged violence.

What was not staged was what the five boys in Mountain View did. They tortured a 13-year-old classmate by handcuffing him, beating him, kicking him, forcing him to drink toilet water and shooting him in the stomach with a pellet gun. What was not staged

was the ritual abuse the San Diego high school baseball team committed against another boy.

So what do we do with sociopathic nuts like these, now that we have created these thugs with our culture? We send them to Juvey, where they learn how to get raped. Who sends them there? We do, in the form of jackass lawyers who use "wrestling" as an excuse for psychotic cruelty.

A generation of kids is being taught that violence is part of athleticism, and the cruel yet still seemingly innate pecking order of that cruelty demands that there always be a sacrificial lamb.

This is fucked up.

I hope the next generation will be thrice as strong and bountiful as ours, and that queer high school 15-year-old boys be allowed to live, and play on the mat, and tell the gods, and their bullies, to piss off.

That is the point. ▼

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ACT UP

◀ previous page

often well-paid, often HIV-negative, full-time professionals, skilled in the art of media manipulation and spin control. Accepting as a given that every individual associated with the AIDS Foundation is operating from the purest of motives and the best of intentions, the resistance to oversight and accountability is both completely understandable as human nature, but totally unacceptable.

It doesn't have to be like this. AIDS researchers, charged with a lack of accountability, were forced to respond in the late 1980s with mechanisms allowing any person with HIV to participate in and review decision-making. Often, these mechanisms took the form of Community Advisory Boards (CABs). CABs meet regularly and are open to any person affected by HIV who wants to participate. At the CABs, research priorities are reviewed and debated with chief researchers, ethics of trials are discussed, and trial protocols are designed.

While not perfect, CABs routinely alter or halt certain drug trials. There are at least six separate CABs operating today in the San Francisco area where activist patients are participating in deci-

sion- and policy-making around AIDS drug trials.

Where's the community advisory board for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, or, for that matter, for the Shanti Project, the AIDS Walk, the Tides Foundation, AIDS Project LA, or the California AIDS Ride? All of these huge institutions could reduce the criticism directed at them from throughout the community and ensure that they remain in closer touch with the actual needs of people with AIDS in this rapidly changing epidemic by developing regular mechanisms for community input into decision-making. These mechanisms, like the CAB model, should be an easy means for interested members of the community to gain access to information about the institutions' activities and for community members to provide input and review of those activities. They should emphasize input from people who are not paid staff at particular service organizations.

If the San Francisco AIDS Foundation chose to, within a year, it could largely reverse the growing feeling of disenfranchisement and anger among the activist AIDS community, by adopting the CAB model. To do so, however, will take some courage and a willingness to actually listen to the people the Foundation purports to serve. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Urvashi Vaid goes to San Jose State

by I.A. Kisselman

Urvashi Vaid, director of The Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, will appear at San Jose State University this Wednesday, May 7. Vaid, the author of a book on the politics and strategies of the gay and lesbian civil rights movement entitled *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay & Lesbian Liberation* will speak on "The Possibility of Coalitions: A Queer Perspective" in the univer-

sity's Engineering Auditorium 189 at 7 p.m.

The lecture will discuss the obstacles to progressive coalitions and moving beyond single issue politics, among other topics.

According to Vaid, "A thriving conservative movement shows us the clear power of coalition politics, but progressives seem unable to unite across the divisions of race, sexual orientation, gender, and economic class."

Her lecture is sponsored by the Institute for Social Responsibility and co-sponsored by the Campus

Climate Committee; the College of Humanities and the Arts; the Department of Social Sciences (including Women's Studies, Asian American Studies, Cultural Pluralism and Social Sciences); and The Gay and Lesbian Faculty and Staff Association.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is a two-year-old think tank that engages in public policy

research, strategic thinking, progressive organizing, and public education.

Founded in 1990 and directed by Andrew Ward of the JSU Philosophy Department, the Institute for Social Responsibility is committed to the comprehensive exploration and advocacy of ethical and socially responsible practices. It provides corporate seminars

and training sessions on issues of business ethics and social responsibility with the academic, business, and civic communities of Northern California.

The event is wheelchair accessible; individuals requiring sign language interpreters, escorts, or other accommodations should call the Institute for Social Responsibility at 408/924-4523. ▼

Prop B

◀ page 1

the community's cultural values through the arts, proponents stated. Queer writers, artists, filmmakers, musicians, composers, and others would benefit from the center, said Pam Peniston, QCC board president.

Supporters also said that 100,000 visitors use the four existing cultural centers each year. Classes for youth and adults, performing arts, exhibitions, community

its April 17 endorsement meeting.

"In general, the club is moderate on social issues, but is very conservative on fiscal matters, and opposed Propositions A [">\$140 million in education bonds] and B because the measures would cost the property owners of the city \$189 million, plus interest," said Scott Furman, Log Cabin president.

The club also questioned the need to provide public funds to renovate the existing cultural centers and construct three additional ones, when they attract "only 100,000 visitors a year."

Queer writers, artists, filmmakers, musicians, composers, and others would benefit from the center.

events, and many other activities are held. Those include: the Bayview Opera House, the Center for African and African-American Art and Culture, the Mission Cultural Center, and the SoMar Cultural Center, established in the 1960s.

"The Bayview Opera House has been around for 120 years," Sheehy said.

Log Cabin opposed

Sheehy told the B.A.R. that he wasn't surprised to learn that the gay Log Cabin Republican Club came out against Proposition B at

"The Capital Improvement Advisory Committee of the city ranked the cultural center bonds 24 of 27 future projects," Furman said.

Sheehy downplayed the club's objections. He stressed the importance neighborhood centers have in a community, particularly giving young people activities to do after school so they don't end up on the streets. Another aspect is that many artists - as many as 60 percent - get started in such facilities.

"Art is a big part of San Francisco," added Sheehy. "One in ten jobs in San Francisco is arts-related." ▼

The PolitiCalendar

A B.A.R. clip 'n' save feature for May

GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

Board of Supervisors
May 5, 12, 19, 27; 2 p.m.
City Hall,
401 Van Ness Avenue,
4th floor
(Meets every Monday,
except Memorial Day)
Info: (415) 554-5184

Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council
(formerly known as Ryan White Council)
May 19; 4:30-7:30 p.m.
SF AIDS Foundation
10 United Nations Plaza,
6th floor
Info: (415) 554-9136

HIV Prevention Planning Council
May 8; 3-6 p.m.
Unitarian Church,
1187 Franklin at Geary
May 15; 3-4 p.m.
SF AIDS office,
25 Van Ness Avenue, 3rd floor
Info: (415) 554-9000

Health Commission
May 6, 20; 3 p.m.
SF Department of Public Health
101 Grove Street, Room 300

(Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday)
Info: (415) 554-2666

ACTIVIST GROUPS

ACT UP/Golden Gate
May 6, 13, 20, 27; 7:30 p.m.
592 Castro Street
(Meets every Tuesday)
Info: (415) 252-9200

L/G/B/T Community Center Project
Info: (415) 241-1526
L/G/B/T Pride Celebration Committee
May 11; 5 p.m.
1390 Market Street,
Suite 1225
Fox Plaza office building
(Meets 2nd Sunday
of every month)
Info: (415) 864-3733

PARTY-AFFILIATED GROUPS

Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club
May 12; 7 p.m.
Floogies Swamp Cafe
1686 Market Street, at Haight
(Meets 2nd Monday of
every month)
Info: (415) 522-3809

Harvey Milk Democratic Club
May 27; 7 - 9 p.m.
Women's Building,
3543 18th Street
(Meets 4th Tuesday
of every month)
Info: (415) 821-2217 x 2

Log Cabin Republican Club
Info: (415) 522-2944.
Call and leave message.

Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA)
May 15; 7 p.m.
507-B Divisadero
(Meets 3rd Thursday
of every month)
Info: (415) 273-1108

SEX CLUB OPERATORS

Coalition for Healthy Sex
May 13; 4:30 p.m.
SF AIDS office,
25 Van Ness Avenue, 5th floor
(Meets 2nd Tuesday
of every month)

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Boy + Boy
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or e-mail SQUIRMed@aol.com

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212906

The following person(s) are doing business as CYBERWOLVES, 2807 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114; Donald Bruce Tombe, 2807 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 4, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Donald Tombe. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 4, 1997.

April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212907

The following person(s) are doing business as BRIGHTON BEACH FURNITURE, 182 6th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118; Yumi-Matsumoto, 1 Daniel Burnham Court, unit #805, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 4, 1997. This business is conducted by a husband and wife. Signed Yumi Matsumoto. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 4, 1997.

April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212875

The following person(s) are doing business as OHLINGER DESIGN GROUP, 307 30th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94121; Jacob Ohlinger, 307 30th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94121. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 3, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jacob Ohlinger. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 3, 1997.

April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212872

The following person(s) are doing business as THE BEAUTY NETWORK, 5748 Geary Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94121-2112; David Heller, 1561 34th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122-3112; Shlomit Heller, 1561 34th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122-3112. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of November 30, 1987. This business is conducted by a husband and wife. Signed David Heller. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 3, 1997.

April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212815

The following person(s) are doing business as BAREMEDIA BARE MEDIA, 250 Clinton Park, San Francisco, CA 94103; John W. Bare, 250 Clinton Park, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 1, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed John W. Bare. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 2, 1997.

April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212816

The following person(s) are doing business as TOKYO EXPRESS INTERNATIONAL, 70 Charter Oak Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94124; Tokyo Express Co., Inc. (California Corporation), 70 Charter Oak Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94124. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Kozo Kimura. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 18, 1997.

April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 213119

The following person(s) are doing business as JC ENDEAVORS, 2727 Market St.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 213089

The following person(s) are doing business as LASER SMOKE SHOP, 61-63 Taylor St., San Francisco, CA 94102; Rantis Karim Fayed, 639 Mason, San Bruno, CA 94066. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 24, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Rantis Karim. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 24, 1997.

April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 213081

The following person(s) are doing business as TINA'S LAUNDROMAT, 636 Cherry St., San Francisco, CA 94131; Cathryn M. Vratimos, 1511 Sweetwood Dr., Daly City, CA 94015; Nicholas C. Vratimos, 1511 Sweetwood Dr., Daly City, CA 94015. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 10, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Allen M. Zekley. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 10, 1997.

April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 213295

The following person(s) are doing business as TOKYO EXPRESS INTERNATIONAL, 70 Charter Oak Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94124; Tokyo Express Co., Inc. (California Corporation), 70 Charter Oak Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94124. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Kozo Kimura. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 18, 1997.

April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212044

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as LASER SMOKE SHOP, at 61 & 63 Taylor St., San Francisco, CA 94102. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on December 30, 1996. Name and address of registrant: Jaser H. Haser, 901 Kains Ave, San Bruno, CA 94066. This business was conducted by an individual. Signed Jaser H. Haser. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on the date April 24, 1997 Gregory J. Diaz, County Clerk-Recorder, by Keith Wong. May 1, 8, 15, 22, 1997.

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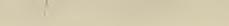
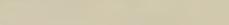
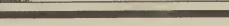
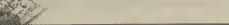
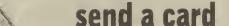
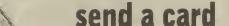
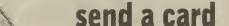
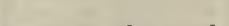
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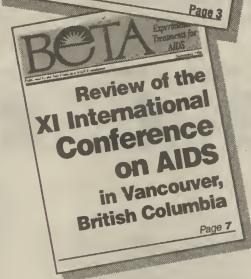
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Great Gay Getaways



Dorothy Gale, standing in her new ruby slippers and all agape at the wonders in the land of Oz, watched the Wicked Witch disappear in a puff of smoke and said with characteristic Midwestern understatement, "People come and go so quickly around here!" Maybe that tendency toward rushing hither and yon is another reason that people frequently refer to San Francisco as "Oz." This, too, is a place where people come and go in a big hurry.

Most of the gays and lesbians who call San Francisco home left other homes (some not too unlike Dorothy's) to come to this Mecca. Many of us put everything we had on the line to come here — some even lost everything — just for the privilege of living in this wondrous town where there is so much to gain.

And then, just when we have driven our roots deep into this fertile

ground, we need to get out!

Not forever, of course, but for a time. As magical as San Francisco is, just about everyone here wants every now and then to travel to someplace else for refreshment of a temporary, but necessary, nature.

And then, when we return to our gilded cage on the Bay, it looks more inviting and magical than ever.

The stories in this section refer to some of our favorite places to make a break for it, from the natural splendor of Yosemite to the utterly unnatural splendor of Hollywood. But these aren't the kind of destinations where travelers are likely to find themselves submerged in metropolitan life, since we already have plenty of that in the Bay Area. None of these places require much activity beyond picking up the occasional fork, glass, or condom. We think that's the point of getting away from it all.

That, and the delight of coming back home again. Because something else we learned from Dorothy is that if happiness isn't in your own backyard, maybe you never lost it to begin with. ▼



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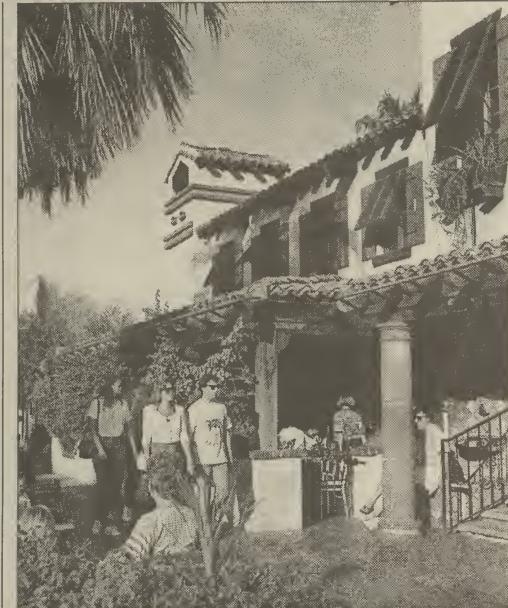
California dreaming over a long weekend: Palm Springs or Russian River – why choose?

by Andrew Collins

Since their high seasons don't overlap, there's no reason you can't spend a few days in Northern California's Russian River region, and a few days in Southern California's desert oasis, Palm Springs. For several reasons, however, few people actually do spend time in both places. What gives?

In the most obvious sense, Palm Springs captures the ambiance of the nearest major cities, Los Angeles and San Diego. A string of sunny, arid, and sizzling resort towns in southern California's Coachella Valley, the Palm Springs region caters to a fun-in-the-sun crowd, drawing thousands of gay men and lesbians (and retirees, and recovering alcoholics, and ex-presidents) from not only the coast but from Las Vegas and Phoenix, too. A smaller but still significant number of visitors come from around the country, especially when circuit parties or the Ladies Pro Golf Association's Dinah Shore Championship hits town (in April). You'll find about 25 gay-exclusive resorts in Palm Springs, plus a few more in neighboring Cathedral City; most of these places are male, but at least two cater to lesbians, and a couple more draw a mixed crowd. The region also has several gay bars, ranging from neighborhood pubs to some serious warehouse discos.

The Russian River definitely has more in common with its nearest major city, San Francisco, which is about a 90-minute drive south. Plenty of visitors also come here from San Jose, Sacramento, and other Bay Area cities and towns, but comparatively few non-Californians frequent the



Accommodations in Palm Springs are a bit more luxurious.

Bob Torrez

Russian River. The queer scene revolves around the sleepy, densely wooded villages of Guerneville and Monte Rio, where several low-key, rustic resorts cater to a fairly mellow, outdoory bunch. Most of these places draw both men and women, and nightlife usually revolves around taverns or bars located at or close to the resorts.

Although water plays a significant role in both destinations, the water you'll find in Palm Springs is in glistening swimming pools, around which nude and scantily clad guests lounge much of the day. The activity at every resort revolves around the pools and a palm-shaded lanais with misting machines to help ward off the effects of the blazing hot sun (temperatures climb above 110 degrees in summer). If these properties aren't especially quaint, they are consistently spacious, plush, and stocked with VCRs, modern baths, and other cushy amenities. The fact is, plenty of guests never leave the comfy confines of their resorts.

Accommodations are definitely less luxurious in the Russian River, partly because guests are more likely to spend their days touring the area's redwood forests and esteemed wineries, or canoeing and tubing along the swift-running Russian River. It's only an hour's drive to the vineyard-studded Napa and Sonoma valleys, or to the rugged coastline that extends north from Point Reyes National Seashore along dramatic bluffs and by fragrant rhododendron preserves. Nevertheless, most resorts either have access and beachfront on the river, or they have a pool. Alas, the heavy rain has roiled the Russian River several times during the past decade; just this past January, several resorts were badly damaged by flooding. They always seem to reopen a few months later, better than ever, but the uncertainty of Mother Nature makes it impractical for most innkeepers to fill their resorts with priceless an-

tiques and high-end amenities.

If you're into hiking, biking, auto touring, and lush greenery, the Russian River is your best bet. Palm Springs is also close to some amazing hiking opportunities – ancient Indian Canyons are just five miles away, and the half-million-acre Joshua Tree National Park is just an hour's drive. But Palm Springs is better suited to bon vivants and sun bunnies. If you're single, or you and your lover are open to a casually sexy atmosphere, Palm Springs is your best bet. Most of the resorts have a high cruise factors, as do most bars, and you'll meet plenty of other singles out here during the high season, from November through April. The Russian River is hardly for prudes – some of the resorts can get very frisky from time to time – but a more sedate atmosphere prevails. The bar scene is quieter, and except on summer weekends, singles are in the minority.

Unfortunately, if sophisticated dining is a high priority, neither destination is blessed with outstanding restaurants. Perhaps due to its following among straight middle- to upper-class retirees – cutting-edge cuisine is not common in Palm Springs, although there are a couple of excellent gay-popular exceptions with decent American and Continental food. The Russian River is an economically depressed area, and most of the eateries are very affordable, but also offer fairly basic American cuisine. If you venture farther afield, however, you'll find some of the state's best restaurants in nearby Santa Rosa, Healdsburg, Sonoma, St. Helena, and Rutherford. ▼

Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA, as well as three West Coast regional guides which were released this month. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown9@aol.com.

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Desert delight

Palm Springs spells '90s nirvana for the gay traveler

by Wayne Hoffman

Palm Springs is the perfect destination for the Gay '90s: all the people there are either gay or in their nineties.

It's a standing joke in this California desert resort, but there's more than an element of truth to it. A tremendous proportion of Palm Springs — and the neighboring towns in the Coachella Valley — is indeed gay. And true enough, it often seems that fully half of the locals are paying their mortgages with Social Security checks. Fortunately, this split personality doesn't seem to be a source of tension. Besides, unlike other resort towns where all the boys are habitually 28 years old, in Palm Springs there are actually more than a few folks — residents and some tourists — who are both gay and retired.

Palm Springs is a bit of a throwback. There are no su-

perdiscos flying in disc jockeys from London or New York. It doesn't have the intense body fascism of South Beach; men here vary in age and body type (although, like South Beach, it's overwhelmingly white). And while men in West Hollywood struggle to have the most fabulous fashions, men in Palm Springs are wearing nothing at all; this is perhaps the largest "clothing optional" resort for gay men anywhere. It's frisky, it's relaxing, it's low-attitude, and it's always sunny.

Actually, some times are sunnier than others. Winters are barely warm enough for sunbathing during the day, and they're quite chilly at night. Summers can be brutal — 120 degrees, even if it is a "dry heat," is an oven — although the nights are gorgeous. Springtime, with perfect weather, is the high season, although some visitors prefer the slower times of year to avoid the crowds.

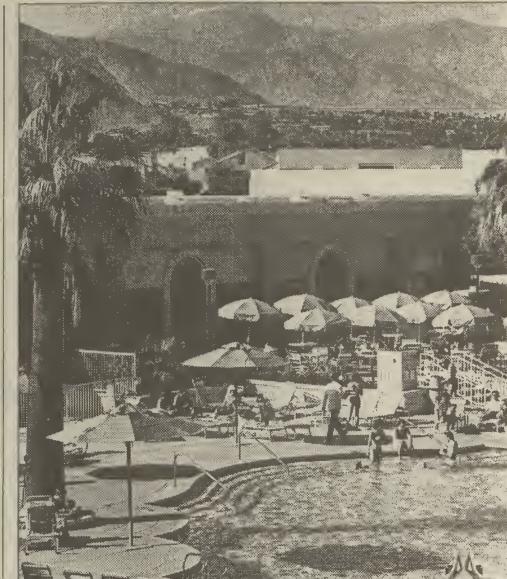
The focal point of a vacation

to Palm Springs is hotel life. A few major hotels provide more luxurious accommodations, but the small gay resorts are the real local attraction. Mostly "clothing optional" with varying degrees of friskiness, these intimate hotels — from the warm and friendly InnDulge to the playful Mirage, the gym-centered Inn Exile to the bear-dominated 550, the elegant Santiago to the randy Cathedral City Boys Club — are the primary social outlet for visitors. Lounging around a pool, with misters and shady palm trees keeping the temperature tolerable, men in various shades of undress schmooze and cruise. Most gay resort hotels have heated pools and Jacuzzis, and most provide a poolside breakfast and even wine and cheese in the afternoon, so it's easy to make new friends in this casual atmosphere. Mountains surround the valley towns and furnish gorgeous backdrops from most any chaise-lounge vantage point.

Low-key demeanor

Golf has long drawn tourists and residents to the desert, and the low-key demeanor of the sport seems well-suited to the town's personality. Golf draws lesbians, in particular, to Palm Springs in droves. Although this male-dominated resort always has a small lesbian contingent — with a couple of women-only and a few mixed hotels — the Dinah Shore LPGA Championship in late March turns the city into the country's largest lesbian circuit party. Major hotels and smaller resorts alike participate in this unique event.

Palm Springs was long the getaway destination for the Hollywood elite, since Los Angeles is only a two-hour drive away. Today, driving through the older parts of the city, celebrity homes by the dozen are testament to the town's past glory. Silver screen greats like Jean Harlow and Greta Garbo had tasteful homes here, as



Poolsides partying is a major Palm Springs activity.

did more recent and more tacky stars like Liberace and Elvis. The houses are mostly small by today's glitterati standards, and the neighborhoods feel strangely intimate and accessible — which makes for a much more interesting drive-by brush with fame.

If most of the celebrities are gone, the desert is still a playground for the well-to-do. Downtown has some terrific shopping, with antique stores and consignment shops in abundance. There's a strip of stores in a Rodeo Drive vein, and the Desert Fashion Center provides an indoor (read: air-conditioned) mall anchored by Saks Fifth Avenue. Discount stores and outlets are kept outside the city. It's not a particularly formal town, but the shopping can be pretty upscale.

Other than shopping, in terms

of the city itself, there isn't much for tourists to feast their eyes on during the day in Palm Springs. The architecture is largely dull and uninspired, and most of the streets — in true Southern California fashion — aren't conducive to leisurely strolls. Fortunately, the Coachella Valley is a natural marvel, so getting out of town during the day is both simple and rewarding, as nearby attractions are many.

The desert looks, at first glance, like a barren wasteland, but the right tour guide with sharp eyes can transform the landscape. Desert Adventures offers personalized jeep tours that bring the region to life; in the Indian Canyons just outside town (half of Palm Springs is built on leased Native American land), the world's largest palm oases await with astonishing views. Joshua Tree National Monument, an hour away, is a perfect spot for hiking and biking. The very best views, however, come from the top of Mt. San Jacinto, the tallest mountain in the area. The cable car to the top passes through several climate zones: when it's 80 degrees at the bottom, there's still snow at the top.

Nightlife

At night, there's plenty to do in Palm Springs. In addition to several moderately priced gay restaurants — the romantic Shame on the Moon, the nouvelle chic Blue Angel, the comfortable gay standby Richard's — there's a thriving bar scene.

The hottest spot in town is the recently relocated CC Construction Company. CC's is more reminiscent in fact of an old Castro dance bar (plenty of cruising around the sunken dance floor, splashy pulsating neon) than a slick new mega-club, and includes plenty of men who might seem overage at a teenybopper disco in a bigger city. Choices, a disco in Cathedral City, used to be the local favorite, but its fortunes have declined somewhat since CC's moved.

The Wolf's Den is the busiest bar in the desert, catering to a low-key leather/Levi crowd.

page 50 ►

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GREAT GAY GETAWAYS

Guerneville as GirlTown:

Russian River welcomes women

by Lois Pearlman

It all began in 1981, when a crew of women working at Fife's in Guerneville realized they were bored with the mostly male clientele that flocked there for the summer weekends.

So they decided to throw a party for women, with music, dancing, sports, and all the things that lesbians like to do when they get together.

It turned out to be such a good idea that they decided to do it again, and again. Soon thousands of women were traveling to the Russian River every year in the beginning of May to get their first tan of the summer in spectacular style.

Over the years the creative people who run the resorts and other businesses along the Russian River have organized a slew of different activities for the annual Women's Weekends.

For a while, the big attraction was a mini music festival featuring women performers. And for a couple of years, a group of local women produced a full slate of clean and sober events, which they dubbed Women's Women's Weekend.

This year, the Women's Weekend organizing committee says, the emphasis is on lots and lots of activities all weekend long, at a variety of locations.

Friday evening, six spots around Guerneville will host welcome parties, including Fife's, the Triple R, and Molly's Country Club, as well as two new bars and a new club — the River Business, Mc T's Bullpen, and the Stumptown Theater. Special features include free entertainment, live music, hors d'oeuvres on the house, and disco dancing.

Saturday, the social whirl begins in earnest. The early morning wake-up call is 8 a.m. tee-off time at the Northwood Golf Course's BACW-sponsored golf tournament and luncheon barbecue.

At Fife's, there's an all-day crafts fair and a host of contests. If you are the sexiest in a bikini, have luscious lips, or the best buns in 501s, this is the place to be. Also on the agenda is a Martha Stewart Award for the best decorated campsite, and a concert with song stylist Zizi.

Or drop in at the Triple-R for poolside fun with hoses at its wet T-shirt and fake orgasm contest.

In the evening the activities continue with disco dancing at Fife's, Deep Vibrations and DJ's Ellen Ferrato and Tracy at the Stumptown Theater, and live entertainment at Molly's Country Club.

The Brew Moon will offer a round-robin of musical performers — Irina Rivkin, Laura Bowley, J.P. Depoulet, and others — beginning at 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, after all that partying, things get going a little later in the day.

At the Stumptown Theater, "Coming Attraction" will present a Lingerie and Pleasure Party Fashion Show, beginning at 2 p.m. The Triple-R will feature another pool party, with a champagne brunch, and Zizi will be back again at Fife's for an afternoon concert and tea dance.

At 1 p.m. the River Reader in Guerneville has slated a book-signing with mystery writer Mary Wings, who will autograph her newest novel, *She Came to the Castro*.



Wet and wild: Gals flock to Guerneville for Women's Weekend.

And if you can't stop boppin' when the sun sets on the Russian River, drop in at Club Heaven in Santa Rosa for Women's Weekend disco dancing until 4 a.m.

In addition to the daily events, the Rio Theater in Monte Rio, possibly the cutest little movie theater in the world, will show the lesbian film *Bound*, Friday and Saturday evenings at 9:15 p.m. There will also be a daily shuttle between the Guerneville Park and Ride and Duncans Mills, for shopping at the tiny hamlet's one-of-a-kind emporiums.

Is this all too much of a good thing? Here are some pleasant ways to escape the crowd for a quiet afternoon.

How about gliding down a lazy river, then pulling out on a secluded beach made for two? Burke's Canoes in Forestville rents aluminum canoes for day trips, with shuttle service back to their parking lot included. And Gold Coast Kayaks Rentals in Jenner, at the mouth of the river, rents one person kayaks hourly or for up to half a day.

For the more ambitious padler, California Riders in Windsor offers guided tours of the river, with a shuttle back to the Guerneville Park and Ride.

To work off a little caloric excess while you enjoy the sights, rent a cruiser or mountain bike at Mike's Bikes in downtown Guerneville. Rates are available for anywhere from one hour to two full days. Mike's also rents car racks for biking in other parts of the county.

But, the most cost-effective way to take in the scenery is a visit to the ancient redwoods at Armstrong Woods State Reserve, and a hike along the park's forested valley and ridgelines. Admission to the park is free if you park in the outside lot.

Another way to discover that "the best things in life are free" is a stroll down a sandy beach along the spectacular Sonoma coast. At Goat Rock Beach, pay a friendly visit to the seals at their river mouth haul-out, and watch the sun drop into the Pacific in a blaze of shocking pink and orange.

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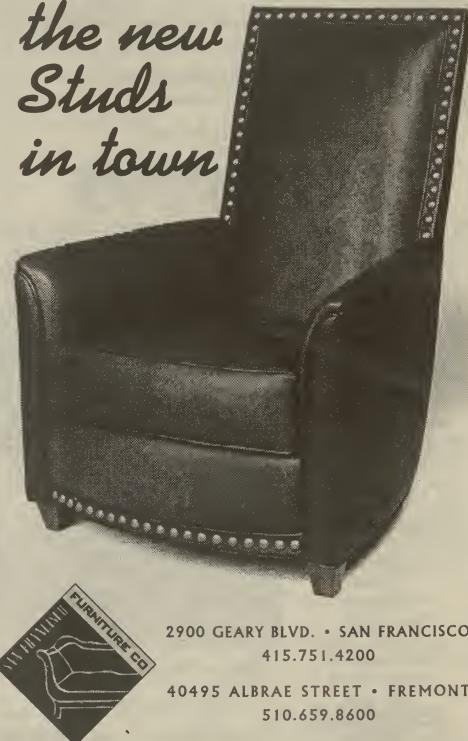


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Great escape for queer nature-lovers in Yosemite

by Shan Schwartz

With beaches, mountains, and big parks, the Bay Area offers plenty of destinations for queer nature-lovers. But just a few hours from the Bay Area offer an even more vast landscape, and an escape from the city, in Yosemite National Park

If you've been to Yosemite once or twice before, it won't be the same if you go at a different time of year. And if you've never been, the awe of your first glimpse into Yosemite Valley will take your breath away. Spring and early summer offer flowing rivers and roaring waterfalls; late summer and fall feature a drier landscape with rugged mountain peaks and trails; and winter presents a quiet, serene setting blanketed with snow.

With the volume of tourists from all over the world, the more populated areas of the park may not be the most gay-friendly, but Bay Area queers are ever-present. And it takes only a short jaunt off the beaten path to find many beautiful, secluded spots for any couple to share romantic moments.

Getting there

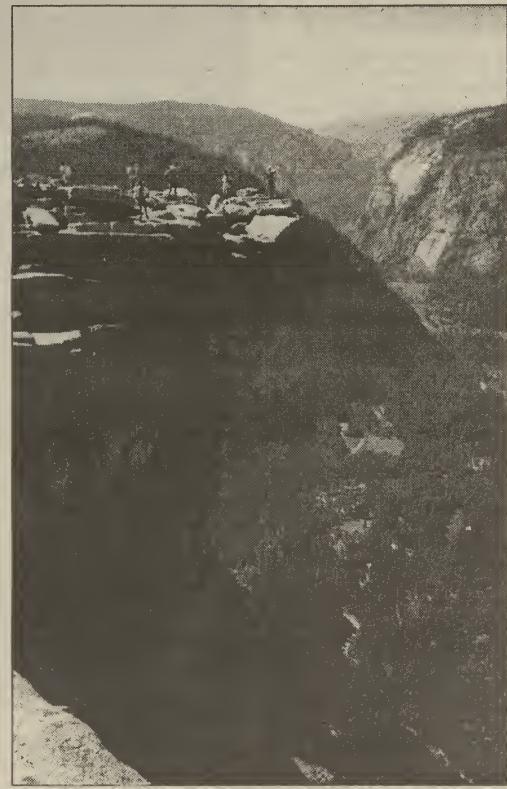
From San Francisco, the drive to Yosemite is about four hours, depending on traffic and the route you choose. The park has three entrances from the west or south side: on Highway 120 from Manteca, Highway 140 from Merced, and Highway 41 from Fresno. Highway 140 has been the traditional "all-weather" route, with plenty of accommodations and places to stop for gas and food along the way, but winter floods damaged the highway near the park entrance. This entrance is currently restricted to one-way "convoys" escorted in and out on a stringent schedule, but it's expected to be fully open in early summer. Highway 120 is a shorter route to Yosemite, at least this year, but it is sparse on gas stations or places to stay.

Where to stay

Damron's Address Book lists only two "gay-friendly" accommodations in or around Yosemite: the Ahwahnee Lodge, located in the heart of the park, and The Homestead, located near the town of Ahwahnee (which is along Highway 41 between Mariposa and Oakhurst, a slightly longer route from San Francisco into Yosemite).

The four-star Ahwahnee is a huge, beautiful old building dwarfed by the high cliffs it sets against. Rooms start around \$200, but if you can't afford a night's stay, the \$20 all-you-can-eat Sunday brunch is one you won't forget.

The Homestead is a small new bed-and-breakfast in a rural setting south of Yosemite. Four cot-



Bird's-eye view: Just one of Yosemite's spectacular vantage points.

Shan Schwartz

tages and a "Stargazing Loft" are available to guests at rates of \$115-\$145 a night. The owners describe it as a "quiet, romantic getaway" with attentive service and forest surroundings.

If your budget won't afford these two options, there are many other inexpensive hotels along Highways 140 and 41 not far outside the park. And of course, the least expensive lodging option for the true outdoorsmen would be camping.

In the park

The most popular part of the park is the Yosemite Valley, a small, narrow valley home to most of the park's attractions and amenities. The northern part of the park (Tioga Pass Road, which leads to the eastern side of the Sierras) is closed during the winter because of heavy snowfall and usually doesn't open until late May or June.

For the first-time visitor, short hikes to see all the views and waterfalls in the Valley can easily take up a full day. But more adventurous hikers should get an early start from the valley to reach the more secluded and hidden treasures of the park.

For an easy getaway from the worst of the summer crowds, try a 45-minute drive (or the Four

Mile Trail) up to Glacier Point. Glacier Point offers a breathtaking view of the valley (from 3,000 feet up), Half Dome, and other distant mountain ranges. A shorter hike to Sentinel Dome (near Glacier Point) allows for a vast 360-degree view of the area.

For the more adventurous nature-lovers, a seven-mile round trip hike from the valley floor takes you to Vernal Falls and Nevada Falls, two of the more spectacular sights in the park. The area at the top of Nevada Falls is perfect for a long mid-day break: large flat rocks are perfect for sunbathing or enjoying your lunch (provided you brought your own!) and watching the other people who made it to the top. The cool, clear water in the Merced River just above the falls is beautiful and inviting, but posted signs warn you of swift currents, slippery rocks, and "If you go over the falls, you will die."

For the even more adventurous, a continued hike to the top of Half Dome (17 miles round-trip) takes an entire day, but the pain is worth it for the view from the top. Dangling your feet over the edge of the 4,800-foot cliff is an experience that makes Mount Tamalpais, Twin Peaks, or even the Sears Tower seem small.

Numerous other trails provide various hiking opportunities, and to avoid the summer crowds altogether, wait until the Tioga Pass Road (Highway 120) opens and go hiking or camping in Yosemite's high country. ▼

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GREAT GAY GETAWAYS

Hooray for Hollywood

The land of dreams still beckons

by William J. Mann

Hollywood. Land of glitz and glamour and gay icons. Nothing quite unites gay men as their seemingly collective love for the movies. From Bette Davis to Meryl Streep, from Fanny Brice to Barbra Streisand, from Tyrone Power to Keanu Reeves, from *The Wizard of Oz* to *The Witches of Eastwick*, gay culture is suffused with the images and references of Hollywood.

But for all that, Tinseltown is not very often listed among the top travel destinations of vacationing gay men. Maybe that's because the movie capital's reputation has gotten a little tarnished of late. Along the star-studded Wall of Fame on Hollywood Boulevard, homeless men and women shuffle. Drug addicts shoot up over the star of Judy Garland. Los Angeles has become a city of riots, floods, fires and earthquakes. We've seen the pictures on TV, heard the laments of the Hollywood faithful.

There's some truth to all this. Even 20 years ago, Hollywood Boulevard was in a state of disrepair — and disrepute. "What a tawdry monument we left behind," sighed Mary Pickford, just before she went into her final seclusion at Pickfair. Of course, now even Pick-

their claims that you will be near the action. What it puts you near are the busloads of tourists being dropped off every morning in front of Mann's Chinese. Los Angeles is many things: a walking city if not. You're going to need a car anyway, so you might as well stay in West Hollywood. It's relatively safe, it's charming, and it's very, very gay. And it does afford you the luxury of walking in the evening. Practically no other area in Los Angeles can offer that.

While there are several hotels and inns in West Hollywood, it's interesting that there is really only one gay guest house in America's only gay city. This is the fabulous San Vicente Inn, located at 845 San Vicente Boulevard. Opened seven years ago, the inn has recently come under new ownership and management. This is a classic guest house, complete with breakfast in the morning, self-contained cottages, and the best maid service you're likely to encounter anywhere.

Terry and Rocky, both South African émigrés, bought the inn a year and a half ago. "Gay travelers are caught up between Key West and Palm Springs," says Rocky. "We want them to know what's here."

Originally the inn was housing for farm workers back in the 1890s. Now it's a lovely blend of old and new in a lush tropical setting. The gardens are beautiful all

bar, although there wasn't much leather the night we investigated. Still, we ended up lucky, so no one's complaining.

Along Santa Monica Boulevard there are bookstores (A Different Light's Los Angeles store is just around the corner from the San Vicente Inn), a zillion coffeehouses and cafes, several gyms, sex shops and clothing stores, most with rainbow flags proudly displayed out front. Within walking distance (for all you Heather Locklear fans) is the trendy Melrose area. The best part of West Hollywood are the boys: every one of them (or so it seems) pretty and buff. This is, after all, the place where dreams are made.

Gay pilgrimages

Okay, so get in your rented car and drive out along Santa Monica Boulevard or down La Cienega for the pilgrimages. These can take many forms. Just about anywhere you can buy a map of the stars' homes. Depending on your taste, you can drive by Madonna's (not much to see) or Michael Jackson's (just a bored guard on duty at the gate.) They've blocked off one entrance to Rockingham in Brentwood, so you have to be clever to drive past O.J.'s. Once a *de rigueur* assignment for any gay tourist ("And that's the spot where Rosa Perez said she saw the Bronco parked"), it's becoming a little tired now, although there were diehards still encamped there in February hoping for a glimpse of Simpson. We, of course, were more interested in Cole Porter's house across the street. "Hey, buddy," they called over to us, "you're looking at the wrong house." We didn't think so.

That's the real pilgrimage: finding the places where gay Hollywood history happened, or at least Hollywood history that has resonance for gay men. The spot on the sidewalk in front of the club in Beverly Hills where River Phoenix died. The house where Joan Crawford dug up the shrubs in a fit of madness. Schwab's Drugstore (no longer open, alas), where Lana Turner stool-swiveled her way into immortality.

You can drive past the homes of Lucille Ball, Jack Benny, Judy Garland, Marlene Dietrich. Take an afternoon stroll down the Wall of Fame and count how many stars Bette Davis has — at least four. Or how about a walk in the Roosevelt Hotel where the first Academy Awards were held. It's a simple room, but somehow much more inspiring than the cavernous Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The ghosts of Janet Gaynor, Emil Jennings, Greta Garbo, and Louis B. Mayer still walk the corridors.

"It's all about finding the right balance," Rocky says. The San Vicente seems to have done that: affording privacy while also offering a communal, friendly atmosphere around the pool and the breakfast table, which is presented each morning on the patio. And not just muffins and coffees, either. There's fresh fruit and fresh-baked breads, cereal and milk, coffee and tea. This is the way to start your day, reading the newspaper in the glorious California sun while enjoying a hearty complimentary breakfast.

And the inn is convenient to everything you'd ever want to see or do in West Hollywood. There are several bars within walking distance, all along Santa Monica Boulevard. Micky's boasts a young crowd, a full menu, a patio restaurant and dancing. Rage is a popular disco with regular shows, special events and video presentations; it appeals to all ages. The Spike is a friendly, cruisy leather

Hollywood has this and much more. In a sense it is the ultimate gay destination, a place filled with surprises and adventures, glamour and beauty. Be a part of it. ▶

You're going to need a car anyway, so you might as well stay in West Hollywood. It's relatively safe, it's charming, and it's very, very gay. And it does afford you the luxury of walking in the evening, unusual for Los Angeles.

fair is gone, bought and practically razed by Pia Zadora.

But Hollywood lives on. A civic-minded local committee has begun polishing up the tinsel of Tinseltown. Sure, the homeless are still there, holding out their palms over the stars of the Talmadge sisters, Hopalong Cassidy, and James Dean. The shops along the strip are mostly tacky souvenir tourist traps. But there are more police patrolling now, and litter isn't left laying around. Mann's Chinese Theater and the Roosevelt Hotel, to name just two landmarks, are aggressively preserving their tradition of elegance. And besides, there's so much more to Hollywood than Hollywood Boulevard.

America's only gay city

Let's start where you should: a few miles west of Hollywood and Vine, in the gracious community of West Hollywood. About a decade ago, forward-thinking citizens petitioned for and won their independence from the sprawling, unwieldy metropolis of Los Angeles. Most of these citizens just happened to be gay, and thus West Hollywood is known unofficially as America's only gay city. Gay men and lesbians serve on city boards; a large percentage of the businesses, especially along Santa Monica Boulevard (the Sunset Strip), are queer.

This is where you should stay. Don't get tricked into staying at a hotel chain in Hollywood, buying

year round, with tall palms, delicate calla lilies and jaunty orange birds of paradise. A swimming pool is a recent addition. "We encourage nude sunbathing," Rocky says. "It's clothing optional."

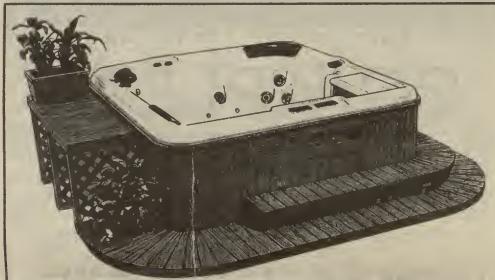
The rooms are spotless and well-appointed: comfortable beds, televisions, private phones with a different line and answering machine for each guest. Some rooms have private baths. Visitors are welcome. They simply ring your room number at the gate, and your phone rings in your room.

"It's all about finding the right balance," Rocky says. The San Vicente seems to have done that: affording privacy while also offering a communal, friendly atmosphere around the pool and the breakfast table, which is presented each morning on the patio. And not just muffins and coffees, either. There's fresh fruit and fresh-baked breads, cereal and milk, coffee and tea. This is the way to start your day, reading the newspaper in the glorious California sun while enjoying a hearty complimentary breakfast.

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West Hollywood marker commemorating protests of Wilson's AB 101 veto.



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Amy Meadow

The comedy of The Five Lesbian Brothers should be a festival highlight.

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Michigan for womyn

by Cynthia Laird

For one week this August, thousands of women will flock to a 650-acre woodland in Michigan to enjoy the company of other women, and will share body, mind, and spirit in this city of women. Of course, it's the annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival.

This year marks the 22nd annual celebration, which takes place August 12-17 near the Manistee National Forest in western Michigan. Last year an estimated 4,500 women attended; this year, organizers are expecting as many as 6,000.

Michigan, as the organizers sometimes refer to the event, is an experiment in cooperative community living as much as it's a performing arts festival. Before women arrive this summer, hundreds of other women will have worked to create the space, build the stages, set up the large tents, and organize the systems and services that give the city its shape.

Women go to the festival to give themselves a week where they can enjoy the company of women during every part of the day. Many become drawn to it to be with others, stretching themselves through the non-stop exchange of ideas and experiences. Attendees are predominantly lesbian, al-

though there are bisexual and straight women who check out the festival too, organizers said.

All women who go to the festival will end up having a hand in its operation; each woman participates in workshifts during her stay. As a result, everyone learns more about the gathering itself, and they have a chance to get to know others they might not have met.

And naturally, there is the music, for which the festival is well known. This year's entertainment features Holly Near and Ronnie Gilbert and The Five Lesbian Brothers, from New York City. Other acts include Lea DeLaria's Jazz, Tret Fure and Cris Williamson, Charming Hostess, Faith Nolan, and many more. Sunday's comedy afternoon will feature Vicki Shaw, Reno, and Elvira Kurt.

Kids are OK

Childcare is available at three different campgrounds, but there are some guidelines, depending on the child's gender.

"Gaia Girls' Camp" offers daily activities and supervision through the evening concerts.

There's also "Brother's Sun Boys' Camp," which is an overnight camp with a program of outings, crafts, cookouts, music, and sports for boys ages 4-10. The camp offers a fun, welcoming, and secluded area for boys while preserving women's space in all other festival areas.

The festival requires all boys 4 and over to camp at Brother Sun for the week. They also strictly adhere to the upper age limit of 10. All children must be pre-registered by July 23.

For younger kids, there's the "Sprouts Toddler Family Campground," which provides day camp and family campgrounds for moms and all toddlers ages 1-3.

Biological women only

The festival has generated controversy over the years for its "women who are born women" admission policy. This year the criticism is flying across the Internet; recently, about 75 percent of the content on the Bay Area Cybergay e-mail list was about the festival's policy of excluding transgender individuals.

Sutree Irving, a festival organizer, said the event was "created with, for, and by women who are born women."

"It's our statement of purpose that we ask everyone to respect," Irving told the B.A.R.

A festival brochure states that

"We come to enjoy, embrace, and sometimes bump up against this diversity that is the very fabric of our community." Irving was asked what is meant by "diversity" in light of the "women who are born women" standard.

"We have women from all over the world, all ages from 90 to six months," Irving said. "We have a lot of different cultural backgrounds and political ideologies."

Columnist Beth Elliott was critical of the festival, saying, "They bump up against it [diversity] and brush it away," and adding that someone was forced to leave the festival for apparently being in violation of the policy about five years ago.

At least one of the brochures does not contain any written reference to the policy.

Elliott said that in previous years, transgender activists set up "Camp Trans" across from the festival in an effort to educate the women attending.

The camp

Upon arriving, women first visit "Orientation," and then proceed to one of several areas. Some are close to most activities, others offer more seclusion, and there are also areas for families, and for those over 50.

Disabled women's resources are organized through DART (Disabled Access Resource Team). For those who have specific needs, this makes participation in a camping event possible, yet it still may not be easy or comfortable for some women to be in an undeveloped, rustic environment. Pre-registration is required for DART services.

Sign language interpretation will be available for all concerts, requested workshops, and other activities.

There's also the Community Center, a place that provides networking for young women, women over 40, Jewish women, deaf and HOH women, and women from other countries.

The Women of Colors Tent offers celebrations, workshops and other events. In its many-colored, multicultural atmosphere, it offers a unique opportunity for exploration and reclamation of various traditions. ▼

There are a variety of ticket plans to choose from. For information about the festival, send a large self-addressed stamped envelope to WWTMC, Box 22, Walhalla, Michigan 49458 or call (616) 757-4766 after June 1.

GREAT GAY GETAWAYS

Michigan for everybody

by George De Witt

Below the AAA emblem on the Bed & Breakfast's front door was another decal: A rainbow flag.

On the wide Victorian porch, I wiped my feet on the doormat, leaving grass clippings from the manicured lawn on the inscribed name — The Kirby House — and pushed the bell button.

Potted ferns and white wicker chairs cast shadows across dark green painted wood plank flooring. A light breeze caused a bench swing to creak on its chains.

The door swung inward. A tall middle-aged woman with neat dark hair ushered me into the oak paneled entry hall.

I introduced myself.

"I'm Marsha," she said, holding out her hand. "What can I do for you?"

I explained that I was staying at my family's summer cottage five miles north in the dunes on Lake Michigan; that friends — two men — were coming from San Francisco in a few weeks to visit and needed a place to stay. I gave her the dates.

She stepped to a mahogany podium desk next to the elaborately mantled entry hall fireplace and opened the registry.

"One room or two?"

"One," I said. Then, remembering the rainbow flag, added, "One bed."

Marsha's finger scanned the page. "Yes, I think we can accommodate them." She looked at me. "My husband just booked the rest of the house that week to a group from Detroit. They're all straight. Will your friends mind?"

I laughed. I'd never heard anyone ask if gay people would mind being around heterosexuals.

"Oh, I don't usually warn our straight guests of a mixed house," she said. "Many of our gay guests are discreet. If they don't tell, why should I?" The corners of her mouth turned up mischievously. "Besides, it's more interesting this way."

"I'd heard you had a good attitude."

And more. I'd heard that well into their marriage of over 30 years, her husband, Loren, had come out as gay. Marsha had chosen to stay with him, and embraced the gay culture without being gay herself. They still ran the house together after 14 years.

A mission

I glanced into the parlor. The lace curtains of its turret-bay window

glowed with the porch's shaded daylight. Embroidered pillows were piled at each end of a deep green velvet-covered sofa.

"Would you like a tour?" Marsha moved past me. "We're quite proud of this place." So was Michigan. Another of the decals on the front door designated the house, built in 1887, as a state historic site.

"I look at The Kirby House as having a mission," she said as we passed through the parlor. "To help change society by bringing straights and gays together in its peaceful, accepting environment."

In the dining room, a brightly colored arrangement of sunflowers and zinnias had been placed in the center of a large antique oak table.

The best part of running this place is watching our straight guests sitting across this table from our gay ones. They'd be strangers before breakfast, but by the time the coffee pot was empty they'd have made plans to get together for dinner." Marsha's hands rested on the high-scrolled back of a dining chair. "And they can all go just about anywhere here in Douglas or Saugatuck and be welcome."

Just a few miles behind the giant sand dunes that line the east shore of Lake Michigan, the quiet town of Douglas quietly touches the Kalamazoo river. In sight downstream against the dunes and on the opposite bank, Saugatuck lines the river with its yacht marinas, clapboard-sided condos, and large restored cottages. While Douglas is working hard to have its own identity, Saugatuck's Butler Street is still the more popular "main street," lined with shops, public buildings and parks dating to the turn of the century. Occasionally a rainbow flag waves gently from an angled pole above the entryway to an antique shop, a gourmet kitchen store, an inn. Women deposit their husbands on sidewalk benches so they can browse through designer clothing. Two men touch shoulders as they appraise an oil painting in the window of the gallery next door.

'Sin City'

For over a century, Saugatuck has had the whispered reputation of "sin city." Its early major industries — lumber, ship building, and produce shipping — attracted workers from outside the area, people without the strict conservative discipline of the Dutch settlers in nearby Holland and other

surrounding villages. Establishments such as liquor bars and the more discreet houses of ill repute, absolutely unacceptable in neighboring communities, crept in in the late 1800s to entertain the factory workers and the longshoremen.

In 1891, a group of young men created a floating art exhibition on an old scow in the river. At first, the thick-necked factory workers looked on these men as a little "queer." But in tune with Saugatuck's evolving culture, the men and their creative whimsies were gradually accepted. As the timber supply dwindled and the lumber and shipbuilding industries faded, Saugatuck became known in Chicago, about 150 miles to the south, as a perfect creative environment. The foundation of several art schools, including the well-known Ox-Bow Summer School of Painting (which still exists), attracted throngs of artists from all over the world. With them came tourists lured by the art colony's bohemian charms, wooded lakeside location, and Lake Michigan beaches. And in the 1930s, one of Michigan's first gay bars opened in Saugatuck.

"I think the Kirby House's mission is the same as Saugatuck's, though they may not be willing to admit it," Marsha continued as she guided me past a pink feather boa hung from the coat rack and up the elaborately banistered stair. She led me into a large upstairs bedroom. The windows formed trapezoids of sun



The Kirby House boasts a rainbow flag decal on its front door.

George De Witt

across a soft-colored Asian rug and up onto the white-quilted, down-puffed four poster. "This is the room we have available," she said. "Do you think your friends would feel welcome here?"

"Without doubt," I said.

Driving back toward my family's cottage, I passed the freshly painted Saugatuck sign with the rainbow colored artist's palette — the same sign that had introduced

Saugatuck the first time I visited it over 40 years before. A little buzz of pride rippled through me. Saugatuck had always been a very important part of my summers. I'd watched it grow up and become one of the few places in the world that gay people were openly welcomed. A place where inns like The Kirby House could proudly welcome anyone willing to be in mixed company. ▀

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¹Number of patients with CMV retinitis were subsets of total number of patients who experienced CMV disease.

²Mean time to progression of retinitis was 62 days in those treated with CYTOVENE-IV vs. 57 days in those given CYTOVENE Capsules ($p=0.63$), based on masked assessment of fundus photographs.

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Please see summary of product information on adjacent pages.

References: 1. Data on file (Abs. #018-014), Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., Nutley, New Jersey.
2. Data on file (Abs. #018-015), Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., Nutley, New Jersey. 3. Data on file (Ref. #018-015), Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., Nutley, New Jersey. 4. Drew WL, et al. Oral ganciclovir as maintenance treatment for cytomegalovirus retinitis in patients with AIDS. *N Engl J Med.* 1995;333(10):615-620.

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CYTOMUNE-IV IS INDICATED FOR USE ONLY IN THE TREATMENT OF CYTOMEGALOVIRUS (CMV) RETINITIS IN IMMUNOCOMPROMISED PATIENTS AND FOR THE PREVENTION OF CMV DISEASE IN TRANSPLANT PATIENTS AT RISK FOR CMV DISEASE.

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CONTRAINdications: CYTOMUNE-IV and CYTOMUNE are contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to ganciclovir or acyclovir.

WARNINGS: Hematology: CYTOMUNE and CYTOMUNE should not be administered if the absolute neutrophil count is less than 500 cells/ μ L or the platelet count is less than 25,000 cells/ μ L. Granulocytopenia (neutropenia), anemia and thrombocytopenia have been observed in patients treated with CYTOMUNE-IV and CYTOMUNE. The frequency and severity of these events vary widely in different patient populations (see ADVERSE EVENTS section). CYTOMUNE-IV and CYTOMUNE should, therefore, be used with caution in patients with pre-existing cytopenias or with a history of cytopenic reactions to other drugs, chemicals or irradiation. Granulocytopenia usually occurs during the first or second week of treatment but may occur at any time during treatment. Cell counts usually begin to recover within 3 to 7 days of discontinuing drug. Colony-stimulating factors have been shown to increase neutrophil and white blood cell counts in patients receiving CYTOMUNE-IV solution for treatment of CMV retinitis. **Impairment of Fertility:** Animal data indicate that administration of ganciclovir causes inhibition of spermatogenesis and subsequent infertility. These effects were reversible at lower doses and irreversible at higher doses (see Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis and Impairment of Fertility in PRECAUTIONS section). Although data in humans have not been obtained regarding this effect, it is considered probable that ganciclovir at the recommended doses causes temporary or permanent inhibition of spermatogenesis. Animal data also indicate that suppression of fertility in females may occur. **Teratogenesis:** Because of the mutagenic and teratogenic potential of ganciclovir, women of childbearing potential should be advised to use effective contraception during treatment. Similarly, men should be advised to practice barrier contraception during and for at least 90 days following treatment with CYTOMUNE-IV or CYTOMUNE (see Pregnancy Category C).

PRECAUTIONS: General: In clinical studies with CYTOMUNE-IV, the maximum single dose administered was 6 mg/kg by intravenous infusion over 1 hour. Larger doses have resulted in increased toxicity. It is likely that more rapid infusions would also result in increased toxicity (see OVERDOSAGE section). Administration of CYTOMUNE-IV solution should be accompanied by adequate hydration. Initially, initial total solutions of CYTOMUNE-IV have a high pH (pH 11). Despite further dilution in intravenous fluids, phlebitis and/or pain may occur at the site of intravenous infusion. Care must be taken to infuse solutions containing CYTOMUNE-IV only into veins with adequate blood flow to permit rapid dilution and distribution (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION section in complete product information). Since ganciclovir is excreted by the kidneys, normal clearance depends on renal reabsorption. IF RENAL FUNCTION IS IMPAIRED, DOSAGE ADJUSTMENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR CYTOMUNE-IV AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR CYTOMUNE CAPSULES. Such adjustments should be based on measured or estimated creatinine clearance values (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION section).

Information for Patients: All patients should be informed that the major toxicities of ganciclovir are granulocytopenia (neutropenia), anemia and thrombocytopenia and that dose modifications may be required, including discontinuation. The importance of close monitoring of blood counts while on therapy should be emphasized. Patients should be informed that ganciclovir has been associated with elevations in serum creatinine. Patients should be instructed to take CYTOMUNE capsules with food to maximize bioavailability. Patients should be advised that ganciclovir has caused decreased sperm production in animals and may cause infertility in humans. Women of childbearing potential should be advised that ganciclovir causes birth defects in animals and should not be used during pregnancy. Women of childbearing potential should be advised to use effective contraception during treatment with CYTOMUNE-IV or CYTOMUNE. Similarly, men should be advised to practice barrier contraception during and for at least 90 days following treatment with CYTOMUNE-IV or CYTOMUNE. Patients should be advised that ganciclovir causes tumors in animals. Although there is no information from human studies, ganciclovir should be considered a potential carcinogen. **All HIV Patients:** These patients may be receiving zidovudine (Retrovir). Patients should be counseled that treatment with both ganciclovir and zidovudine simultaneously may not be tolerated by some patients and may result in severe granulocytopenia (neutropenia). Patients with AIDS may be receiving didanosine (Videx). Patients should be counseled that concomitant treatment with both ganciclovir and didanosine can cause didanosine serum concentrations to be significantly increased. **HIV Patients with CMV Retinitis:** Ganciclovir is not a cure for CMV retinitis, and immunocompromised patients may continue to experience progression of retinitis during or following treatment. Patients should be advised to have ophthalmologic follow-up examinations at a minimum of every 4 to 6 weeks while being treated with CYTOMUNE-IV or CYTOMUNE. Some patients will require more frequent follow-up. **Transplant Recipients:** Transplant recipients should be counseled regarding the high frequency of impaired renal function in transplant recipients who received CYTOMUNE-IV solution in controlled clinical trials, particularly in patients receiving concomitant administration of nephrotoxic agents such as cyclosporine and amphotericin B. Although the specific mechanism of this toxicity, which in most cases was reversible, has not been determined, the higher rate of renal impairment in patients receiving CYTOMUNE-IV solution compared with those who received placebo in the same trials may indicate that CYTOMUNE-IV played a significant role.

Laboratory Testing: Due to the frequency of neutropenia, anemia and thrombocytopenia in patients receiving CYTOMUNE-IV and CYTOMUNE (see ADVERSE EVENTS section), it is recommended that complete blood counts and platelet counts be performed frequently, especially in patients in whom ganciclovir or other nucleoside analogues have previously resulted in leukopenia or in whom neutrophil counts are less than 1000 cells/ μ L at the beginning of treatment. Increased serum creatinine levels have been observed in trials evaluating both CYTOMUNE-IV and CYTOMUNE. Patients should have serum creatinine or creatinine clearance values monitored carefully to allow for dosage adjustments in really impaired patients (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION section).

Drug Interactions: Didanosine: At an oral dose of 1000 mg of CYTOMUNE every 8 hours and didanosine, 200 mg every 12 hours, the steady-state didanosine $AUC_{0-\infty}$ increased 111 ± 11% (range: 10% to 49%) when didanosine was administered either 2 hours prior to or concurrent with administration of CYTOMUNE (n=12 patients, 23 observations). A decrease in steady-state ganciclovir AUC of 21 ± 17% (range: -44% to 5%) was observed when didanosine was administered 2 hours prior to administration of CYTOMUNE, but ganciclovir AUC was not affected by the presence of didanosine when the two drugs were administered simultaneously (n=12). There were no significant changes in renal clearance for either drug. When the standard intravenous ganciclovir induction dose (5 mg/kg infused over 1 hour every 12 hours) was coadministered with didanosine at a dose of 200 mg orally every 12 hours, the steady-state didanosine $AUC_{0-\infty}$ increased 70 ± 40% (range: 3% to 121%, n=11) and C_{max} increased 49 ± 48% (range: -28% to 125%). In a separate study, when the standard intravenous ganciclovir maintenance dose (5 mg/kg infused over 1 hour every 24 hours) was coadministered with didanosine at a dose of 200 mg orally every 12 hours, didanosine $AUC_{0-\infty}$ increased 50 ± 26% (range: 22% to 110%, n=11) and C_{max} increased 36 ± 36% (range: -27% to 94%) over the first didanosine dosing interval. Didanosine plasma concentrations ($AUC_{0-\infty}$) were unchanged during the dosing intervals when ganciclovir was not coadministered. Ganciclovir pharmacokinetics were not affected by didanosine. In neither study were there significant changes in the renal clearance of either drug. **Zidovudine:** At an oral dose of 1000 mg of CYTOMUNE every 8 hours, mean steady-state ganciclovir $AUC_{0-\infty}$ decreased 17 ± 25% (range: -52% to 23%) in the presence of zidovudine, 100 mg every 4 hours (n=12). Steady-state zidovudine $AUC_{0-\infty}$ increased 19 ± 27% (range: -11% to 74%) in the presence of ganciclovir. Since both zidovudine and ganciclovir have the potential to cause neutropenia and anemia, some patients may not tolerate concomitant therapy with these drugs at full dosage. **Probencid:** At an oral dose of 1000 mg of CYTOMUNE every 8 hours (n=10), ganciclovir $AUC_{0-\infty}$ increased 53 ± 91% (range: -14% to 299%) in the presence of probenecid, 500 mg every 6 hours. Renal clearance of ganciclovir decreased 22 ± 20% (range: -54% to -4%), which is consistent with an interaction involving competition for renal tubular secretion. **Imipenem-clavastatin:** Generalized seizures have been reported in patients who received ganciclovir and imipenem-clavastatin. These drugs should not be used concomitantly unless the potential benefits outweigh the risks. **Other Medications:** It is possible

CYTOMUNE®-IV (ganciclovir sodium for injection) and CYTOMUNE® (ganciclovir capsules)

that drugs that inhibit replication of rapidly dividing cell populations such as bone marrow, spermatogonia and germinal layers of skin and gastrointestinal mucosa may have additive toxicity when administered concomitantly with ganciclovir. Therefore, drugs such as dapsone, pentamidine, flucytosine, vincristine, vinblastine, adriamycin, amphotericin B, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole combinations or other nucleoside analogues, should be considered for concomitant use with ganciclovir only if the potential benefits are judged to outweigh the risks. No formal drug interaction studies of CYTOMUNE-IV or CYTOMUNE and drugs commonly used in transplant recipients have been conducted. Increases in serum creatinine were observed in patients treated with CYTOMUNE-IV plus either cyclosporine or amphotericin B, drugs with known potential for nephrotoxicity (see ADVERSE EVENTS section). In a retrospective analysis of 93 liver allograft recipients receiving ganciclovir (5 mg/kg infused over 1 hour every 12 hours) and oral cyclosporine (at therapeutic doses), there was no evidence of an effect on cyclosporine whole blood concentrations.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis: Ganciclovir was carcinogenic in the mouse at oral doses of 20 and 1000 mg/kg/day (approximately 0.1x and 14x, respectively, the mean drug exposure in humans following the recommended intravenous dose of 5 mg/kg, based on area under the plasma concentration curve [AUC] comparisons). At the dose of 1000 mg/kg/day there was a significant increase in the incidence of tumors of the preputial gland in males, forestomach (nongastric mucosa) in males and females, and reproductive tissues (ovaries, uterus, mammary gland, clitoral gland and vagina) and liver in females. At the dose of 20 mg/kg/day, a slightly increased incidence of tumors was noted in the preputial and harderian glands in males, forestomach in males and females, and liver in females. No carcinogenic effect was observed in mice administered ganciclovir at 1 mg/kg/day (estimated as 0.01x the human dose based on AUC comparison). Except for histiocytic sarcoma of the liver, ganciclovir-induced tumors were generally of epithelial or vascular origin. Although the preputial and clitoral glands, forestomach and harderian glands of mice do not have human counterparts, ganciclovir should be considered a potential carcinogen in humans. Ganciclovir increased mutations in mouse lymphoma cells and DNA damage in human lymphocytes in vitro at concentrations between 50 to 500 and 250 to 2000 μ g/mL, respectively. In the mouse micronucleus assay, ganciclovir was clastogenic at doses of 150 and 500 mg/kg (IV) (2.8 to 10x human exposure based on AUC) but not 50 mg/kg (exposure approximately comparable to the human based on AUC). Ganciclovir was not mutagenic in the Ames Salmonella assay at concentrations of 500 to 5000 μ g/mL.

Impairment of Fertility: Ganciclovir caused decreased mating behavior, decreased fertility, and an increased incidence of embryolethality in female mice following intravenous doses of 90 mg/kg/day (approximately 1.7x the mean drug exposure in humans following the dose of 5 mg/kg, based on AUC comparisons). Ganciclovir caused decreased fertility in male mice and hypospadogenesis in mice and dogs following daily oral or intravenous administration of doses ranging from 0.2 to 10 mg/kg. Systemic drug exposure (AUC) at the lowest dose showing toxicity in each species ranged from 0.03 to 0.1x the AUC of the recommended human intravenous dose.

Pregnancy: Category C: Ganciclovir has been shown to be embryotoxic in rabbit and mice following intravenous administration and teratogenic in rabbits. Fetal resorptions were present in at least 85% of rabbit and mice administered 50 mg/kg/day and 108 mg/kg/day (2x the human exposure based on AUC comparisons), respectively. Effects observed in rabbits included: fetal growth retardation, embryolethality, teratogenicity and/or maternal toxicity. Teratogenic changes included cleft palate, anophthalmia/microphthalmia, aplastic organs (kidney and pancreas), hydrocephaly and brachycephaly. In mice, effects observed were maternal/fetal toxicity and embryolethality. Daily intravenous doses of 90 mg/kg administered to female mice prior to mating, during gestation, and during lactation caused hypoplasia of the testes and seminal vesicles in the month-old male offspring, as well as pathologic changes in the nonendlerian region of the stomach (see Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis subsection). The drug exposure in mice as estimated by the AUC was approximately 1.7x the human AUC. Ganciclovir may be teratogenic or embryotoxic at doses levels recommended for human use. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. CYTOMUNE-IV or CYTOMUNE should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefits justify the potential risk to the fetus.

Footnote: All dose comparisons presented in the Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility and Pregnancy subsections are based on the human AUC following administration of a single 5 mg/kg intravenous infusion of CYTOMUNE-IV as used during the maintenance phase of treatment. Compared with the single 5 mg/kg intravenous infusion, human exposure is doubled during the intravenous induction phase (5 mg/kg bid) and approximately halved during maintenance treatment with CYTOMUNE capsules (1000 mg tid). The cross-species dose comparisons should be divided by 2 for intravenous induction treatment with CYTOMUNE-IV and multiplied by 2 for CYTOMUNE capsules.

Nursing Mothers: It is not known whether ganciclovir is excreted in human milk. However, many drugs are excreted in human milk and, because carcinogenic and teratogenic effects occurred in animals treated with ganciclovir, the possibility of serious adverse reactions from ganciclovir in nursing infants is considered likely (see Pregnancy Category C section). Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving CYTOMUNE-IV or CYTOMUNE. The minimum interval before nursing can safely be resumed after the last dose of CYTOMUNE-IV or CYTOMUNE is unknown.

Pediatric Use: SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF CYTOMUNE-IV AND CYTOMUNE IN CHILDREN HAVE NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED. THE USE OF CYTOMUNE-IV OR CYTOMUNE IN CHILDREN WARRANTS EXTREME CAUTION DUE TO THE PROBABILITY OF LONG-TERM CARCINOGENICITY AND REPRODUCTIVE TOXICITY. ADMINISTRATION TO CHILDREN SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN ONLY AFTER CAREFUL EVALUATION AND ONLY IF THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF TREATMENT OUTWEIGH THE RISKS.

The spectrum of adverse events reported in 120 immunocompromised pediatric clinical trial participants with serious CMV infections receiving CYTOMUNE-IV solution were similar to those reported in adults. Granulocytopenia (17%) and thrombocytopenia (10%) were the most common adverse events reported. Sixteen children (8 months to 15 years of age) with life- or sight-threatening CMV infections were evaluated in an open-label CYTOMUNE-IV solution pharmacokinetic study. Adverse events reported for more than 1 child were as follows: hypokalemia (4/16, 25%), abnormal kidney function (3/16, 19%), sepsis (3/16, 19%), thrombocytopenia (3/16, 19%), leukopenia (2/16, 13%), coagulation disorder (2/16, 13%), hypertension (2/16, 13%), pneumonia (2/16, 13%) and immune system disorder (2/16, 13%). There has been very limited clinical experience using CYTOMUNE-IV for the treatment of CMV retinitis in patients under the age of 12 years. Two children (ages 9 and 5 years) showed improvement or stabilization of retinitis for 23 and 9 months, respectively. These children received induction treatment with 2.5 mg/kg tid followed by maintenance therapy with 6.1 to 6.5 mg/kg once per day, 5 to 7 days per week. When retinitis progressed during once-daily maintenance therapy, both children were treated with the 5 mg/kg bid regimen. Two other children (ages 2.5 and 4 years) who received similar induction regimens showed only partial or no response to treatment. Another child, a 5-year-old with T-cell dysfunction, showed stabilization of retinitis for 3 months while receiving continuous infusions of CYTOMUNE-IV at doses of 2 to 5 mg/kg/24 hours. Continuous infusion therapy was discontinued due to granulocytopenia. Eleven of the 72 patients in the placebo-controlled trial in bone marrow transplant recipients were children ranging from 3 to 10 years of age (5 treated with CYTOMUNE-IV and 6 with placebo). Five of the pediatric patients treated with CYTOMUNE-IV received 5 mg/kg intravenously bid for up to 7 days; 4 patients went on to receive 5 mg/kg qd up to day 100 post-transplant. Results were similar to those observed in adult transplant recipients treated with CYTOMUNE-IV. Two of the 6 placebo-treated pediatric patients developed CMV pneumonia versus none of the 5 patients treated with CYTOMUNE-IV. The spectrum of adverse events in the pediatric group was similar to that observed in the adult patients. CYTOMUNE capsules have not been studied in children under age 13.

Use in Patients with Renal Impairment: CYTOMUNE-IV and CYTOMUNE should be used with caution in patients with impaired renal function because the half-life and plasma/serum concentrations of ganciclovir will be increased due to reduced renal clearance (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION and ADVERSE EVENTS: Renal Toxicity sections). Hemodialysis has been shown to reduce plasma levels of ganciclovir by approximately 50%.

Use in Elderly Patients: The pharmacokinetic profiles of CYTOMUNE-IV and CYTOMUNE in elderly patients have not been established. Since elderly individuals frequently have a reduced glomerular filtration rate, particular attention should be paid to assessing renal function before and during administration of CYTOMUNE-IV or CYTOMUNE (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION section).

ADVERSE EVENTS: Adverse events that occurred during clinical trials of CYTOMUNE-IV solution and CYTOMUNE capsules are summarized below, according to the participating study subject population.

Subjects with AIDS: Three controlled, randomized, phase 3 trials comparing CYTOMUNE-IV and CYTOMUNE capsules for maintenance treatment of CMV retinitis have been completed. During these trials, CYTOMUNE-IV or CYTOMUNE capsules were prematurely discontinued in 9% of subjects because of adverse events. In a placebo-controlled, randomized, phase 3 trial of CYTOMUNE capsules for prevention of CMV disease in AIDS, treatment was prematurely discontinued because of adverse events, new or worsening intercurrent illness, or laboratory abnormalities in 19.5% of subjects treated with CYTOMUNE capsules and 16% of subjects receiving placebo. Laboratory data and adverse events reported during the conduct of these controlled trials are summarized on the next page.

CYTIVENE®-IV (ganciclovir sodium for injection) and **CYTIVENE®** (ganciclovir capsules)**Laboratory Data:****Selected Laboratory Abnormalities in Trials for Treatment of CMV Retinitis and Prevention of CMV Disease**

Treatment	CMV Retinitis Treatment*		CMV Disease Prevention†	
	CYTIVENE Capsules [‡] 3000 mg/day	CYTIVENE-IV [‡] 5 mg/kg/day	CYTIVENE Capsules [‡] 3000 mg/day	Placebo [§]
Subjects, number	320	175	478	234
Neutropenia:				
<500 ANC/ μ L	18%	25%	10%	6%
500 – <749	17%	14%	16%	7%
750 – <1000	19%	26%	22%	16%
Anemia:				
Hemoglobin:				
<6.5 g/dL	2%	5%	1%	<1%
6.5 – <8.0	10%	16%	5%	3%
8.0 – <9.5	25%	26%	15%	16%
Maximum Serum Creatinine:				
>2.5 mg/dL	1%	2%	1%	2%
≥1.5 – <2.5	12%	14%	19%	11%

* Pooled data from Treatment Studies, ICM 1653, Study ICM 1774 and Study AVI 034.

† Mean time on therapy = 91 days, including allowed reinduction treatment periods

‡ Mean time on therapy = 103 days, including allowed reinduction treatment periods

§ Data from Prevention Study, ICM 1654

¶ Mean time on ganciclovir = 269 days

** Mean time on placebo = 240 days

(See discussion of clinical trials under INDICATIONS AND USAGE section.)

Adverse Events: The following table shows selected adverse events reported in 5% or more of the subjects in three controlled clinical trials during treatment with either CYTIVENE-IV solution (5 mg/kg/day) or CYTIVENE capsules (3000 mg/day), and in one controlled clinical trial in which CYTIVENE capsules (3000 mg/day) were compared to placebo for the prevention of CMV disease.

Selected Adverse Events Reported in ≥5% of Subjects in Three Randomized Phase 3 Studies Comparing CYTIVENE Capsules to CYTIVENE-IV Solution for Maintenance Treatment of CMV Retinitis and in One Phase 3 Randomized Study Comparing Cytozyme Capsules to Placebo for Prevention of CMV Disease

Body System	Adverse Event	Maintenance Treatment Studies		Prevention Study	
		Capsules (n=326)	IV (n=179)	Capsules (n=478)	Placebo (n=234)
Body as a Whole	Fever	38%	48%	35%	33%
	Infection	9%	13%	8%	4%
	Chills	7%	10%	7%	4%
	Sepsis	4%	15%	3%	2%
Digestive System	Diarrhea	41%	44%	48%	42%
	Anorexia	15%	14%	19%	16%
	Vomiting	13%	13%	14%	11%
Hemic and Lymphatic System	Leukopenia	29%	41%	17%	9%
	Anemia	19%	25%	9%	7%
	Thrombocytopenia	6%	6%	3%	1%
Nervous System	Neuropathy	8%	9%	21%	15%
Other	Sweating	11%	12%	14%	12%
	Pruritis	6%	5%	10%	9%
Catheter Related*	Total Catheter Events	6%	22%	—	—
	Catheter Infection	4%	9%	—	—
	Catheter Sepsis	1%	8%	—	—

* Some of these events also appear under other body systems.

The following events were frequently observed in clinical trials but occurred with equal or greater frequency in placebo treated subjects: abdominal pain, nausea, flatulence, pneumonia, paresthesia, rash. **Retinal Detachment:** Retinal detachment has been observed in subjects with CMV retinitis both before and after initiation of therapy with ganciclovir. Its relationship to therapy with ganciclovir is unknown. Retinal detachment occurred in 11% of patients treated with CYTIVENE-IV solution and in 8% of patients treated with CYTIVENE capsules. Patients with CMV retinitis should have frequent ophthalmologic evaluations to monitor the status of their retinits and to detect any other retinal pathology.

Transplant Recipients: There have been three controlled clinical trials of CYTIVENE-IV solution and one controlled clinical trial of CYTIVENE capsules for the prevention of CMV disease in transplant recipients. Laboratory data and adverse events reported during these trials are summarized below. **Laboratory Data:** The following table shows the frequency of granulocytopenia (neutropenia) and thrombocytopenia observed:

	Controlled Trials - Transplant Recipients		CYTIVENE-IV		CYTIVENE Capsules	
			Heart Allograft [†]		Bone Marrow Allograft [†]	
	CYTIVENE-IV (n=76)	Placebo (n=73)	CYTIVENE-IV (n=57)	Control (n=55)	CYTIVENE Capsules (n=150)	Placebo (n=154)
Neutropenia						
Minimum ANC < 500/ μ L	4%	3%	12%	6%	3%	1%
Minimum ANC 500-1000/ μ L	3%	8%	29%	17%	3%	2%
TOTAL ANC ≤ 1000/ μ L	7%	11%	41%	23%	6%	3%
Thrombocytopenia						
Platelet count < 25,000/ μ L	3%	1%	32%	28%	0%	3%
Platelet count 25,000-50,000/ μ L	5%	3%	25%	37%	5%	3%
TOTAL Platelet ≤ 50,000/ μ L	8%	4%	57%	65%	5%	6%

* Study ICM 1496. Mean duration of treatment = 28 days

† Study ICM 1570 and ICM 1689. Mean duration of treatment = 45 days

‡ Study GAN040. Mean duration of ganciclovir treatment = 82 days

(See discussion of clinical trials under INDICATIONS AND USAGE section.)

CYTIVENE®-IV (ganciclovir sodium for injection) and **CYTIVENE®** (ganciclovir capsules)

The following table shows the frequency of elevated serum creatinine values in these controlled clinical trials:

	Controlled Trials - Transplant Recipients				CYTIVENE Capsules	
	CYTIVENE-IV		Heart Allograft ICM 1496		Liver Allograft Study 040	
	Heart Allograft (n=76)	Bone Marrow Allograft (n=73)	ICM 1570	ICM 1689	Placebo (n=150)	Placebo (n=154)
Maximum Serum Creatinine Levels	CYTIVENE-IV (n=76)	Placebo (n=73)	(n=20)	(n=20)	CYTIVENE-IV (n=37)	Placebo (n=35)
Serum Creatinine ≥ 2.5 mg/dL	18%	4%	20%	0%	0%	0%
Serum Creatinine ≥ 1.5 – 2.5 mg/dL	58%	69%	50%	35%	43%	44%

In 3 out of 4 trials, patients receiving either CYTIVENE-IV solution or CYTIVENE capsules had elevated serum creatinine levels when compared to those receiving placebo. Most patients in these studies also received cyclosporine. The mechanism of impairment of renal function is not known. However, careful monitoring of renal function during therapy with CYTIVENE-IV solution or CYTIVENE capsules is essential, especially for those patients receiving concomitant agents that may cause nephrotoxicity.

General: Other adverse events that were thought to be "probably" or "possibly" related to CYTIVENE-IV solution or CYTIVENE capsules in controlled clinical studies in either subjects with AIDS or transplant recipients are listed below. These events all occurred in at least 3 subjects. **Body as a Whole:** abdomen enlarged, asthenia, chest pain, edema, headache, injection site inflammation, malaise, pain; **Digestive System:** abnormal liver function test, aphthous stomatitis, constipation, dyspepsia, eructation; **Hemic and Lymphatic System:** pancytopenia; **Respiratory System:** cough increased, dyspnea; **Nervous System:** abnormal dreams, anxiety, confusion, depression, dizziness, dry mouth, insomnia, seizures, somnolence, thinking abnormal, tremor; **Skin and Appendages:** alopecia, dry skin; **Special Senses:** abnormal vision, taste perversion, tinnitus, vitreous disorder; **Metabolic and Nutritional Disorders:** creatinine increased, SGOT increased, SGPT increased, weight loss; **Cardiovascular System:** hypertension, phlebitis, vasodilation; **Urogenital System:** creatinine clearance decreased, kidney failure, kidney function abnormal, urinary frequency; **Musculoskeletal System:** arthralgia, leg cramps, myalgia, myasthenia. The following adverse events reported in patients receiving ganciclovir may be potentially fatal: gastrointestinal perforation, multiple organ failure, pancreatitis and sepsis.

Adverse Events Reported During Postmarketing Experience with CYTIVENE-IV and CYTIVENE Capsules: The following events have been identified during post-approval use of the drug. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to either the seriousness, frequency of reporting, the apparent causal connection or a combination of these factors.

acidosis, allergic reaction, anaphylactic reaction, arthritis, bronchospasm, cardiac arrest, cardiac conduction abnormality, cataracts, cholelithiasis, cholestasis, congenital anomaly, dry eyes, dysesthesia, dysphasia, elevated triglyceride levels, encephalopathy, exfoliative dermatitis, extrapiramidal reaction, facial palsy, hallucinations, hemolytic anemia, hemolytic uremic syndrome, hepatic failure, hepatitis, hypercalcemia, hypotension, inappropriate serum ADH, infertility, intestinal ulceration, intracranial hypertension, irritability, loss of memory, loss of sense of smell, myelopathy, oculomotor nerve paralysis, peripheral ischemia, pulmonary fibrosis, renal tubular disorder, rhadomyolysis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, stroke, testicular hypotrophy, Torsades de Pointes, vasculitis, ventricular tachycardia.

OVERDOSE: CYTIVENE-IV/Overshoot with CYTIVENE-IV has been reported in 17 patients (13 adults and 4 children under 2 years of age). Five patients experienced no adverse events following overdosage at the following doses: 7 doses of 11 mg/kg over a 3-day period (adult), single dose of 3500 mg (adult), single dose of 500 mg (72.5 mg/kg) followed by 48 hours of peritoneal dialysis (4-month-old), single dose of approximately 60 mg/kg followed by exchange transfusion (19-month-old), 2 doses of 500 mg instead of 31 mg (21-month-old). Irreversible pancytopenia developed in 1 adult with AIDS and CMV colitis after receiving 3000 mg of CYTIVENE-IV solution on each of 2 consecutive days. He experienced worsening GI symptoms and acute renal failure that required short-term dialysis. Pancytopenia developed and persisted until his death from a malignancy several months later. Other adverse events reported following overdosage included persistent bone marrow suppression (1 adult with neutropenia and thrombocytopenia after a single dose of 6000 mg), reversible neutropenia or granulocytopenia (4 adults), overdoses ranging from 8 mg/kg daily for 4 days to a single dose of 25 mg/kg, hepatitis (1 adult receiving 3 mg/kg daily, and one 2 kg infant after a single 40 mg dose), renal toxicity (1 adult with transient worsening of hematuria after a single 500 mg/700 mg dose), and seizure (1 adult with known seizure disorder after 3 days of 9 mg/kg). In addition, 1 adult received 0.4 mL (instead of 0.1 mL) CYTIVENE-IV solution by intravitreal injection, and experienced temporary loss of vision and central retinal artery occlusion secondary to increased intraocular pressure related to the injected fluid volume. CYTIVENE Capsules: There have been no reports of overdosage with CYTIVENE capsules. Doses as high as 6000 mg/day, given either as 1000 mg 6 times daily or as 2000 mg tid, did not result in overt toxicity other than transient neutropenia. Daily doses of more than 6000 mg have not been studied. Since ganciclovir is dialyzable, dialysis may be useful in reducing serum concentrations. Adequate hydration should be maintained. The use of hematopoietic growth factors should be considered.

CYTIVENE-IV for intravenous infusion manufactured by Parke-Davis, Division of Warner-Lambert Company, Morris Plains, NJ 07950 and CYTIVENE Capsules for oral administration manufactured by Syntex Puerto Rico, Inc., Humacao, Puerto Rico 00791 for



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CYTOB

Of gardens, good, and evil

Deep South sojourning in sultry Savannah

by Robert Julian

In Savannah, everyone simply refers to it as "the book." John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* has been on the nonfiction bestseller list for almost three years – in hardback – and this publishing phenomenon has transformed Savannah. But not everyone is celebrating. Seated in an armchair in the double parlor of his decaying mansion, Charles Claiborne Ornish is an unmarried gentleman whose mother lived with him until she died. The seventysomething Ornish is as faded and unkempt as his surroundings, but his keen mind provides an instantaneous reply when I ask if Berendt succeeded in capturing the essence of Savannah.

"Not at all," he opines, crossing his legs and nodding knowingly. "That book didn't tell us anything that everyone in Savannah didn't already know, but preferred not to talk about. And it brought all those *horrible* people here, traipsing around with their cameras – and all that polyester, three sizes too small for their big behinds. But however horrible things are

now, just wait 'til the movie comes out. I shudder to think about it. At least these people can *read*!"

Ornish's home of 40 years was designed in 1858 by John S. Norris, the same architect who designed Mercer House, the infamous scene of the crime in Berendt's book. But unlike Mercer House, "Ornish House" has been split into units. The top and bottom floors are rented out, as are the old slave quarters at the back of the lot. Ornish occupies the two middle floors of the main house. It is a residence defined by falling plaster, antique furniture, and the general dishabille of its aging owner – quite different from those other homes, bought with the new gay money that has recently flooded Savannah.

"Most of them are couples who have been together forever," Ornish explains. "You meet them at parties, and each member of the couple pulls you aside to complain about the horrors of living with the other. They retire early, sell everything, and buy a big old house here that they remodel. These couples all engage in competitive decorating as they try to outdo each other. That is followed immediately by competitive

party-giving. Personally, I find it all rather distasteful."

Yet, realizing that his own mansion veers toward a certain Addams family aesthetic, Ornish draws a uniquely Southern apology. "I always tell guests that they can write their name in the dust if they want to," he chuckles, "but I do ask them not to date it. Recently it got back to me that someone – who shall remain nameless – said it was a shame I didn't have the money to fix the place up. Well, I let him know, through a third party, of course, that the money is there, but I just simply could not deal with the *disruption*."

II

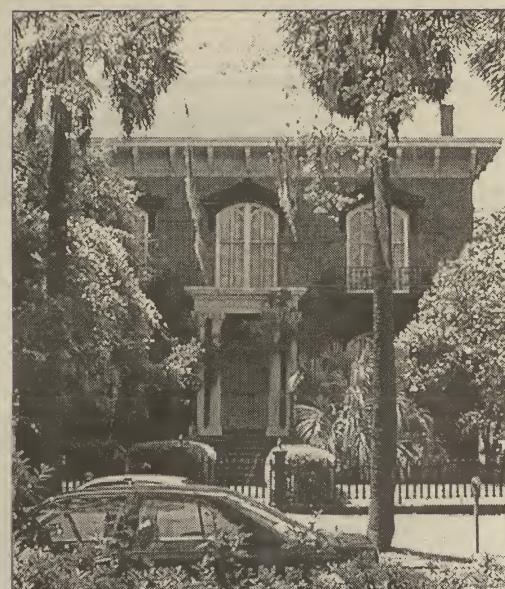
Savannah is laid out around 16 formal squares, most of them boasting beautifully planted gardens which find a parallel in the manicured lawns and shrubbery of the ante-bellum mansions surrounding the squares. It is a city of gardens, lovely gardens, many of them hidden from public view. The private gardens reveal their treasures only to the select few invited into the inner sanctum of the privileged.

The infamous Mercer House is located on Monterey Square which, until recently, featured a monument containing the remains of General Casimir Pulaski, a gallant Polish nobleman who fell during the siege of Savannah in 1779. His remains were exhumed this year for DNA testing since questions have been raised as to their authenticity. The ongoing investigation, however, has been hampered by an inability to find a direct descendant of General Pulaski to provide the necessary DNA for the test.

On the day of my visit, Monterey Square is filled with Girl Scouts. The Girl Scouts were founded on March 12, 1912, by Savannah native Juliette Gordon Low, whose birthplace is located at 329 Abercorn Street. Low House is the first Savannah landmark to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and a visit to Low House is the *ne plus ultra* ambition of Girl Scouts throughout the world. Ms. Low's nickname was Daisy, and those who make the pilgrimage to Low House receive a merit badge in the shape of a daisy that they can affix to their kelly green sashes. Girl Scouts are a ubiquitous presence in Savannah, traveling in gaggles, escorted by female chaperones. I pass through Monterey Square at luncheon time as a dozen Scouts, all Caucasian, settle onto park benches to unwrap their sandwiches. Peeling back a waxed paper wrapper, one 12-year-old blonde stretches out her arm with sandwich aloft. Her face assumes a look of abject horror and desperation as she plaintively cries out, "Mom, Mom, they put *lettuce* on my sandwich!"

III

Local radio stations are already running 30-second spots for auditions. Those who seek employment as extras are to show up at the appointed time next week. Filming of "the book" begins in May under Clint Eastwood's direction. At the bed and breakfast inn where I'm staying, the hostess is pleased with the recent turn of events. A former art dealer in her early fifties, she is refined, charming and impeccably groomed –



Robert Julian

View to a kill: Savannah's infamous Mercer House on Monterey Square.

and she has finally found a buyer for her inn. The asking price: \$498,000.

"Thank goodness for John Berendt. His book is responsible for the rise in tourism here and, I think, the increase in property values. We bought in 1986, and this year is the first time we could sell and get our money back. I look forward to becoming a lady of leisure, but the book has certainly been good for business. And I think he captured Savannah very well. John came to town, and he got to know the right people very quickly. They gave him all the material he needed. It's a small town, and very stratified between the haves and the have-nots, the new money and the old money. It's complex, and the book documents the subtleties of our little world very well."

"My husband and I knew Joe Odom. I used to represent his second wife. She was an artist. Joe was the piano-playing attorney who gave all those parties and spent his time living in other people's houses. A friend of mine rented her house to Joe, and he treated the place terribly – it even caught on fire while he was there. And he never paid the rent. Joe just went from house to house never paying a dime, and nobody tried to collect because Joe was an attorney. But even after all she went through, my friend said she still liked him. He was just one of those people – so charming, so much charisma – it was impossible not to like Joe."

"Remember in the book, where Joe says he's going to insist on playing himself when they make the movie?" She pauses and smiles a wistful smile, recalling a future once foretold. "I guess that just wasn't meant to be. Joe died, you know..."

"No, I didn't," I reply.
"...of AIDS."

IV

Faces, on Lincoln Street, is the new gay bar in town, but Savannah's reliable established gay venue is Club One. Located near the waterfront and spread out over three floors, Club One provides food service and pool tables in the basement. A dozen video monitors display a loop of buff male models in soft-core fantasy segments that seem to be lifted

from the cover of gay romance novels. The basement is like a community center where people hang out and meet friends. Young, old, lesbian, gay, white, black, rich, poor – they all meet here.

The main floor of Club One is the disco, with a large bar and a ceramic tile dance floor, sticky from a long history of spilled drinks. People dance alone or in couples in front of mirrored walls, and on this particular Saturday night, the dancers thin out just before the 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. drag shows that take place on the small stage located on the second floor. Club One is the home of Lady Chablis, and the lady is in rare form tonight.

The house is packed, and "the lady" is the emcee of tonight's drag revue. The evening is a reunion of sorts, and the headliner is Mr. Charlie Brown, Chablis' mentor and the person who first said to her, "Girlfriend, pick up that microphone, put on a dress, and get out there. I know you got something to say." Charlie Brown's drag persona resembles the zaftig housewives found throughout shopping centers in the Deep South. Huge breasts protrude from a plunging neckline as Brown delivers a bawdy number which appeals most to the clique of lesbians seated stage left. Throughout the evening, it is the rowdy lesbians at Club One who place most of the dollar bills between the manufactured breasts of the female impersonators. But the Lady Chablis does not work for tips.

Bursting from behind the black curtain, "the lady" sashays to stage center as her curly brown tresses bounce above the neckline of a sleeveless gold gown. "I am the black Scarlett O'Hara, the black Liz Taylor," she announces, without a trace of irony. Chablis is reed thin, in firm possession of a stage personality that is a cross between Don Rickles and Patti LaBelle. A group of apparently heterosexual retirees occupies the front row, and the lady gives them her special attention.

"You must be the church group. All you Christians must have an awful lotta money to sit right down here in the front row

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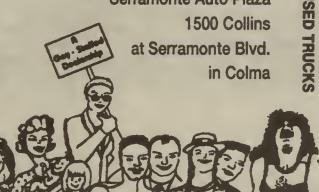
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GREAT GAY GETAWAYS

Ready, willing, and disabled

by David Northmore

Cruising, schmoozing, bopping 'til you're dropping; saunas, swimming, sailing, and surfing—that's what summer holidays are all about. But try any of those activities in a wheelchair—should the opportunity present itself—and the appeal of getting away from it all can soon evaporate.

Let's face it—vacationing is all about getting out and about: trekking, riding, scuba-diving, and taking in the endless and inaccessible wonders of the world.

And, of course, tracking down sex.

But little thought is given to the needs of disabled travelers by many tour operators—particularly the amplified needs of disabled gays and lesbians. So now the disabled are doing it for themselves.

Barry Johnson, a 36-year-old man with multiple sclerosis, has set up a travel agency specifically geared towards providing sex holidays for the disabled, including lesbians and gays, in Amsterdam—a city famed for its culture, liberal attitudes, and sex industry.

"It's not just Amsterdam's infamous Red Light district that attracted me to the city—just about every tourist attraction that I wanted to visit there had disabled

access," said Johnson. "Not only the Van Gough museum and the tower market—I was surprised that all the shops, hotels, pubs, and clubs are also wheelchair accessible, and it was great."

"I was treated no differently from any other able-bodied person."

Johnson hit on the idea of setting up the agency when a friend took him on a holiday to Amsterdam two years ago. Living in rural Dorset, England was not conducive to sustaining an active social life while dependent on a wheelchair, and his experiences in Amsterdam, including sex, perked him up no end.

"It was my first decent holiday in the eight years since I contracted multiple sclerosis," he said. "And it was the first time I had sex for eight years, too."

Not pimps

After the holiday Johnson, and his business partner Lilyann Ayres, decided to set up Real Life Travel. The pair stress that the Dorset-based firm is a travel company and not a pimping agency. It does not lay on rent boys or prostitutes, but can point customers in the right direction if sex is on their mind.

"We take people on holiday and that's all," according to Johnson. "If our customers want sex,

that's up to them. They can always give Mariska Majoor a call."

Majoor is an ex-prostitute and director of Amsterdam's Prostitution Information Centre, which she set up to help clients find the services they are looking for—including male prostitutes—and those of both sexes who are willing to take on disabled clients.

sex since he was 16, has recently undergone a disability training program organized by the Prostitution Information Centre.

"I would occasionally get calls from disabled gay men who wanted sex," he says. "I am quite happy about working with the disabled, but was worried about how I should handle them, and what are

travel brochures reveals that not all travel operators have the interests of the disabled in mind.

Predictably, the trendy Club Med (motto: "A world of choice, start living!") makes no mention of disability services. A company travel consultant had little practical to offer.

The British Airway Worldwide holiday brochure fares better. Page 224 bears a four-line caveat stating: "Due to the nature of our hotels/destinations, many lack even the simplest facilities such as ramps for wheelchairs, lifts, etc. However, we will do all possible to recommend the most suitable holiday for you."

Eurostar's holidays offshoot, Bridge Travel, does little better; despite Eurostar trains being fully accessible to the disabled, Bridge's brochure makes no attempt to let on to the fact. First prize goes to Richard Branson's Virgin Holidays, which has a Special Services Department to advise disabled customers.

"We believe in freedom for all," said company spokeswoman Gwyneth Harkus. "All people should have the opportunity to experience overseas travel. Accessible hotels in our brochure bear the wheelchair logo, and we can

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Not all travel operators have the interests of the disabled in mind. Predictably, trendy Club Med ("A world of choice, start living!") mentions no disability services.

She also runs training courses for would-be prostitutes, including advice from physiotherapists on how to work with the disabled.

"The situation in England is bizarre," says Majoor, who could also be speaking of the situation in America. "It doesn't make any sense. If people want something, they will try to get it somehow. It is really unfair that they have to come all the way to Amsterdam for sex—but of course they are always very welcome here."

Kaas DeWitt, a 24-year-old gay prostitute who has been selling

their limits of physical strain." DeWitt was very impressed with the course. "The physiotherapist gave us training on lifting clients, and we were also given advice on first aid and what to do in an emergency," he says. "I feel much more confident now."

More mainstream

But what of disabled lesbians and gays aiming for a more mainstream holiday?

A spot survey of this year's new

Wallet card lets travelers bring their medical history with them

by Dennis Conkin

An inexpensive credit card-sized emergency medical card that allows physicians and other emergency medical providers access to a patient's comprehensive medical records is now available to consumers.

EMCard, the brainchild of a group of Stanford University entrepreneurs, allows physicians and other medical caregivers immediate fax access to a patient's medical records—anywhere in the world.

The unique portable medical record has been endorsed by the 32,000-member California Medical Association as an "excellent system," according to Jack McCleary, head of the physician's group.

"The availability of this information will help physicians provide more rapid treatment and improve patient outcomes," McCleary said in a letter to the company.

The card will also save costs such as unnecessary hospital admissions and expensive medical procedures and tests.

Medical information provided through EMCard is supplied by patients, who fill out a brief questionnaire concerning their medical histories. It can be updated at anytime to include copies of recent electrocardiograms, lab tests, a living will, or do-not-resuscitate orders.

The questionnaire takes an average of ten minutes to fill out and includes information about emer-

gency contacts, the member's family or personal physician, current medications, allergies, past surgeries or use of medical devices, health insurance information, social history, and additional comments from the individual.

Privacy is restricted through a personal access code, which the patient can use to withhold any portion of the records from providers.

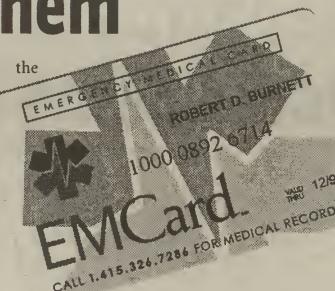
The unique medical information system genesis stems from a 1995 incident in which EMCard co-founder Rama Jager's mother suffered a stroke.

"I was with her at the time," Jager said. "In an emergency medical situation people are often under the gun. My mother was unable to feel much on her whole left side. She wasn't unconscious, but she was in shock."

Communicating with doctors about what medication she was taking and other relevant information was difficult, he said. As a result of the incident, Jager realized the need for such a product.

The company was formed and launched as the result of a Stanford University business class, where the concept and a business plan was developed.

The member's EMCard identification number is listed on the



card, and a physician can use this number (and the patient's personal access code if necessary) to obtain the medical record.

Each patient has the option of choosing a personal four-digit code that can be used to withhold specific information on the card—such as HIV test results or the results of a genetic test.

The medical information is stored for retrieval in a secure database, rather than on paper where it can be viewed by multiple medical personnel.

The EMCard can also be used for non-emergency situations when members want access to medical records, to provide them to someone other than their regular physicians. ▼

The card is available for \$29 for individuals. For more information, contact EMCard at 298 S. Sunnyvale Avenue, Suite 210, Sunnyvale, California 94086, or call 1-800-840-4998. The card also has a computer home page at www.emcard.com for further information.

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Fun down below:

Puerto Vallarta welcomes gay tourists

by I.A. Kisselman

The cat is out of the bag. The wonderful secret of Puerto Vallarta is no longer exclusively held by the jet set. In recent years, the talk of Puerto Vallarta's sleepy, sensual splendor has filled the ears of everyone from caravans of Canadians to deck chairs full of the Dutch. That may be bad news for the A-listers, but good news for the rest of us wishing to taste a bit of paradise.

Puerto Vallarta, on the Pacific coast, is a town of intriguing duality—slightly chaotic, yet refreshingly tranquil, overpopulated with party tourists, yet providing enough space and ambiance for quiet reflection. Anyone (well, anybody less sour than Scrooge or Nancy Reagan) would find it difficult to have a bad time in a place so inviting and magical.

Not that it's impossible to be moderately miserable, if that's

what you want. And if misery is what you're after, you might want to check into the beachfront Playa Los Arcos Hotel. It's the ideal place to pretend it's somehow "chic" to pay bloated prices for a closet-sized room, and simply perfect if you want to indulge a weird craving for some good old-fashioned homophobia—which is available in great quantities right there at the check-in counter!

Recently, at the Playa Los Arcos front desk, the check-in clerk frowned at a gay male couple standing before him and said, with obvious disdain, "It says here that the reservation was for a couple, a man and a lady. There's only one bed." Fortunately, two can play the disdain game. The disgusted gay couple switched hotels and—after trudging across town, climbing the hill behind the gorgeous spire of Our Lady of Guadalupe church, and arriving at the *best* hotel in all of Puerto Vallarta, Hotel Los Cuatro Vientos—immediately began having the fabulous vacation they originally envi-

ioned. Los Cuatro Vientos has it all: simple, lovely, spacious rooms, a wonderful patio for breakfast (which is included with your stay six days a week), fantastic flora, a uniquely situated swimming pool, and a generously-proportioned L-shaped deck complete with rooftop bar and an absolutely amazing view of the ocean, the glorious sunsets, and the town below. Add to this a staff of charmers themselves, the lovely Teresa and a group of sweet, hard-working young gay men. The prices are completely reasonable, too, \$45-\$65 per night.



things in dollars to get an even better price.

To be honest, however, most things in Puerto Vallarta are inexpensive, even without bartering for them. The bus to and from the airport, for example, costs two pesos—about 25 cents. Taxis are basically ten pesos anywhere in town—and tipping appears to be optional—but most sensible people prefer walking, which in Puerto Vallarta is both quite easy and very pleasant.

If you're at all adventurous, go parasailing; it's over too soon, but well worth the \$20 it costs to soar above the beach. If you're of the more artistic bent, you might want to take in the fabulous art by Sergio Bustamante—one of the few truly expensive things in town—on view in his gallery. Less expensive art is supplied by the "Can Lady" who is nearly always on the main plaza, whipping up fantastic paintings in about 20-25 minutes using spray paint, plates, and forks to create her landscapes. It's very interesting to watch, whether it's something you would want to buy or not.

Food, drink, and more

Before hitting the clubs, visitors should peruse the local cuisine scene. Besides the simple tacos and burritos that most visitors to Mexico think of as the regional food, Puerto Vallarta also offers elegantly prepared dishes in "upscale" places like Cafe des Artistes. The best restaurant overall is Le Bistro, with nice setting

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Street scene: one of the many lovely vistas in Puerto Vallarta.

Matt Lewis

Where to go, what to do

While in Puerto Vallarta, go on a day trip to Yolapa and Misalonga and make sure to beat the tourists to the waterfall. Don't be a chicken; the waterfall is cold, but ultimately refreshing, and terribly spiritual, like nature's baptistery. Visit churches in any of these places for a real taste of the raw, bare-bones approach to a house of worship. Amazing. Don't forget to visit the Our Lady of Guadalupe church in Puerto Vallarta and make sure to buy one of the wooden rosaries they sell outside. If you look into the little bead on the cross, you will see a

statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe living inside! Kitschy beyond belief, but worthwhile nonetheless. You may feel a tad guilty for bartering right outside the church, but you should: a bargain's a bargain, after all.

Remember, in Puerto Vallarta—a town where you can happily shop 'til you drop—merchants expect you to barter at all times before making any purchase. There is always a deal to be had; do not be a coward. Get a backbone and get the price you want! If you don't, walk away. The salesperson will come after you with a better offer. And here's a tip: pay for

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Hepatitis A: Don't come home with it

by Mike Salinas

Travelers have a lot of things to consider as they plan a vacation, especially when they're traveling to foreign destinations. But in the crush of so many details, from passports to phrase books, too many people leave one important item off their lists: a hepatitis A vaccine.

Hepatitis A (HAV) is a highly contagious virus that attacks the liver. It is the seventh most commonly reported infectious disease in the United States (behind gonorrhea, chicken pox, syphilis, AIDS, salmonellosis, and shigellosis), and accounts for as many as 65 percent of all viral hepatitis cases in the U.S. each year.

In 1996, approximately 29,000 cases of HAV were reported in the U.S. However, the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that there are approximately 143,000 HAV infections in the United States each year. Worldwide, there are an estimated 1.4 million cases reported annually.

How and where is it spread?

There are several types of hepatitis. Hepatitis A is the most prevalent. Hepatitis A and hepatitis E are mainly transmitted through the fecal-oral route, while hepatitis B, C, and D are spread through

blood or other body fluids.

The virus is transmitted by oral-anal sex or other close person-to-person contact, or by swallowing contaminated food or water. Infection has been shown to be spread by:

- Eating raw or undercooked shellfish (e.g., oysters, clams, mussels) from waters contaminated with the hepatitis A virus;
- Eating foods contaminated by infected food handlers;
- Transmission through blood transfusions or sharing needles with infected people using injectable drugs; and
- Close personal contact with someone infected with hepatitis A.

Many Americans, however, get hepatitis while traveling to other countries. Areas of the world where hepatitis A is common include Africa, Asia (except Japan), the Mediterranean basin, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Central and South America, Mexico, and parts of the Caribbean. Although the most common route is through contaminated food or water, gay men are also susceptible through some sexual practices with residents of those areas.

The incubation period for hepatitis A ranges from 20 to 50 days, which means that infectious patients can spread the disease well before they are even aware they have it, which has led to situations of highly infectious passengers on

airplanes putting hundreds of their fellow travelers at some risk. Incubation is shorter with increasing age.

There is currently no treatment for hepatitis A, although rest and proper nutrition can relieve some symptoms. Most patients begin recovery within three weeks, although some have prolonged or relapsing symptoms for up to six months. An estimated 100 deaths occur in the U.S. each year from hepatitis A.

It can be prevented

Historically, the most common preventative has been immune globulin administration, which is effective for about three to six months. Now, however, there are two vaccines that provide long-term protection and eliminate the need for repeated shots. These vaccines typically are administered as one initial shot followed by a booster shot in about six to 18 months.

Prior infection with hepatitis A confers lifetime protection against a second attack. If in doubt, a blood test can determine if a person has had hepatitis A in the past or needs protection.

Hepatitis A vaccines are, frankly, a good idea for any gay man who has not yet been infected; it is particularly important before traveling, especially to foreign countries. For more information, contact your health provider. ▼



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Disabled

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supply cars with hand controls at many destinations."

Colin Heath, managing director of gay tour operator Uranian Travel, believes that the problem is not entirely one-sided.

"It is always so much easier if customers tell their travel agent at the outset that they are disabled. There are many gay resorts that have disabled access – such as Florida, Canary Islands, Ibiza, Palma – and operators can ensure that they are booked into an accessible hotel and have their special needs looked after."

But not all disabled gays and lesbians see their needs in such obvious terms.

Janice Pink, a 57-year-old lesbian who uses a wheelchair because of disabling rheumatoid arthritis, last summer experienced her first holiday for seven years.

"My partner is also disabled, and we have found it so difficult – both finding a suitable resort and also getting there – that we gave up altogether."

But last year they booked a caravan owned by the Spina Bifida Association in Britain's New Forest. "It was just wonderful. The entire site was all on one level, the caravan was beautifully ramped, the door had been especially widened, and there was even an enormous shower big enough for

two. It was just a dream."

But Janice did become aware that even such well thought-out facilities still ignored the sexual needs of disabled people. "It was so well-planned, except for the beds. There were two singles – we were horrified!"

The two women merged them into one queen-sized bed, and all was well.

"It does show that the sexuality of disabled people is still a big taboo in our society," she added.

But a holiday still remains a far-off possibility for many lesbians and gay men. Simon is an 18-year-old gay with spastic paraparesis, which severely restricts the use of his legs and leaves him dependent on a wheelchair and residential home.

"Forget holidays," he says. "I am just sick of going on coach trips to homes in the country where we spend all our time basket-weaving or making fluffy toys."

"What I really want is enough privacy so that I can have sex with my friends."

"All the people who plan and run services for disabled people think of everything – like little gadgets that help you put the plug in the bath. But they just don't seem to be able to cope with the idea we might want to have sex." ▼

Reprinted from London's Pink Paper, Europe's biggest gay paper, by permission.

Palm Springs

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Streetbar is a small neighborhood happy hour bar; Sundance Saloon is the country/western dance bar; and Rainbow Cactus is the local piano bar. After hours, the crowds head to the Tool Shed, a cruise bar with unremarkable facilities but longer hours.

The only lesbian venue in the area is Delilah's, a large and attractive bar that features a small dance floor. The atmosphere is upbeat and social, and the crowd

includes a few men. Women are also welcome at the men's bars, and appear there in small but consistent numbers.

Other nightlife options don't involve alcohol. Club Palm Springs is a 24-hour bathhouse whose facilities – and often, the patrons – are pretty worn-out. Hotter and edgier is the unique Gravel Pit, an all-night (weekends only) adult playground. More traditional, Hidden Joy is a hopping adult bookstore that never closes. All of these adult alternatives are within walking distance of each other in Cathedral City, which has

a reputation as the raunchier cousin to neighboring Palm Springs.

Palm Springs is truly a vacation: a place to get away from the rat race of the work-a-day world and the equally competitive, frenzied gay social life of major urban centers. It's a place where lounging by the pool is indeed the most important thing to do, a place where cruising was never eclipsed by attitude, a place where choosing an outfit is secondary to choosing whether to wear any outfit at all. No baggage — of any sort — is necessary. ▼

Savannah

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with your face in my pussy. You have a lotta nerve! Some Christians you are!"

Chablis takes a fancy to the 60ish bald guy down front who sits in the middle of seven women who are about the same age. "Are you married to her?" Chablis asks, pointing to the older woman seated to his right.

"No," the man replies.

"No! No? You mean you're fucking all these bitches? Damn! You must be good."

Throughout the evening, the Lady Chablis refers to only one book – her own: *Hiding My Candy*. A shameless self-promoter of Olympian proportions, the Lady Chablis is both vulgar and tasteless. Among the residents of Savannah, Chablis is rarely discussed. She is an embarrassment who stumbled across the right writer at the right moment. At any other time, she would eke out an existence on the margins of society like any other poor black drag queen in the South. But at this moment, her celebrity is part of the penance Savannah must pay for its new-found fame. The Lady Chablis is the antidote for Southern charm, and for the outsider,

she possesses a unique and undeniable charm of her own.

▼

It is always humid in Savannah. Even in spring, when the temperature hovers around the 80-degree mark, there is a damp, sultry feel to the air. Savannah reeks of sex, but not the in-your-face New York variety. The sexuality of Savannah is discreet. It is hidden behind garden walls, closed from view by heavy drapes or drawn shutters, and barely disturbed by the slight breeze coming from the river. The sexual possibilities are endless – old men with young boys, blacks with whites – anything is possible, even in the South, if there is no witness. John Berendt's role as witness is the sin which cannot be forgiven.

The statue which graces the cover of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* has been removed for safekeeping, but everything else remains the same. Bonaventure Cemetery still lies just beyond the city limits, with the Wilmington River running along its border. Heading south on Wheaton, my car passes acres of housing projects, a nail salon, and Don's Handy Pantry where, in the parking lot, three black men lounge in the bed of a pickup late in the afternoon. Theirs is a tail-

gate party of the most relaxed and informal variety. On the left, just off Bonaventure Road, the open gates of the cemetery invoke a sense of mystery and foreboding. Ancient headstones litter the gently rolling terrain, and beneath the limbs of spreading oak trees one perfect memorial stands out. It is the final resting place of little Gracie, the six-year-old daughter of the innkeeper at the old Pulaski Hotel. She has been dead for over 100 years, but her seated likeness, rendered in white marble, seems ready to take the visitor on a private tour down the River Styx.

At Bonaventure, and throughout Savannah, the ancient oak trees are covered with gray-green Spanish moss. The moss is a parasite, born by the air, which attaches itself to spreading oaks and hangs like thick tinsel draped from the boughs of Christmas trees. Making a home for itself among leaves and branches it does not resemble, the moss transforms an ordinary tree into a romantic, exotic vision the tree could never become on its own. A perpetual dependent, the moss becomes a part of the tree while remaining separate and distinct from its host. With time, a natural symbiosis occurs, and it becomes almost impossible to imagine one without the other. ▼

Puerto Vallarta

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and ambiance – and killer Pina Coladas. Also, don't miss Chez Elena, located right at the previously mentioned Hotel Los Cuatros Vientos, for some traditional and tasty Mexican cuisine.

Do not, however, eat at the places that have sent large smiling men into the street to tempt you with discount coupons and drink specials. They're trying just a wee bit too hard, and unfortunately the chef's efforts to provide excellent food are not typically commensurate with the efforts of

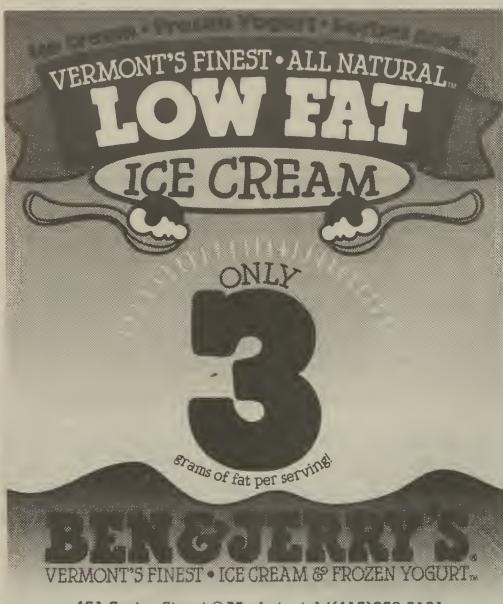
these extra-friendly guys.

The two main gay clubs in town are Paco Paco and Los Balcones. Paco Paco, the more popular, keeps expanding upward like some skyscraper out of control, with roofdecks above, pool rooms with a live parrot in the middle, and a dance floor and strip/cowboy club down below.

The midnight show at Paco Paco offers really good drag performed to great music, from dramatic ballads to upbeat dance numbers that really get you going. These Mexican queens are fierce; some of our San Francisco queens should get down there immediately, equipped with

notebooks and feathered pens, to take notes. Overall, the club offers a nice mixed crowd – gay/straight, guys/gals, local/tourist, etc. – and the people who work there are sweet, too. Watch for the "Whistle Girl," who will want to get you wasted on shots of tequila.

There's so much to do in Puerto Vallarta it's impossible to sum it all up in a single story. So go see for yourself. Get tan. Get laid. Sit in the blue chairs. Sit in the green chairs. They're both in the "gay section" of the beach. The whole beach is nice, though. Stroll on it. Swim in the ocean. Don't think too much. ▼



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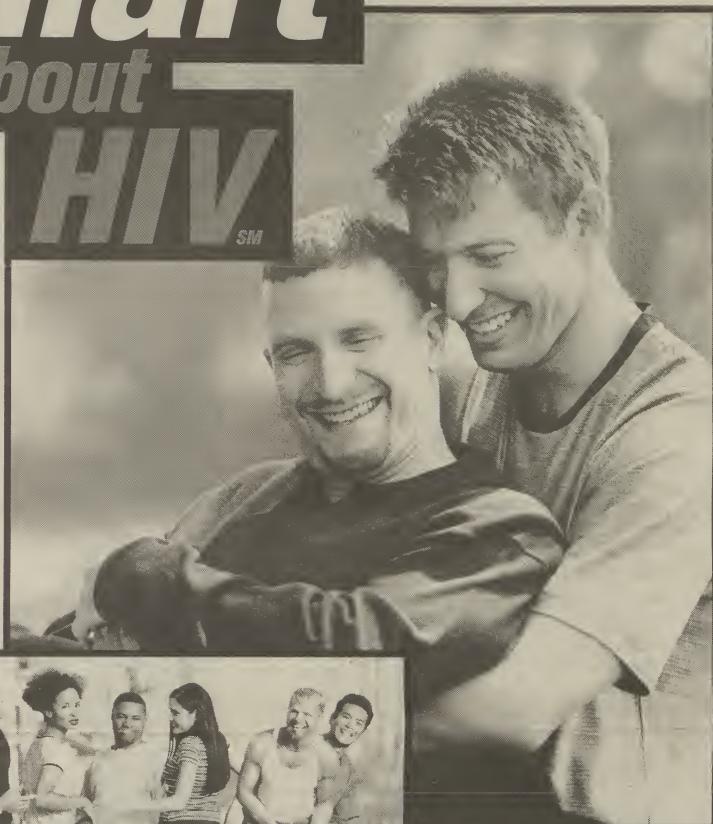
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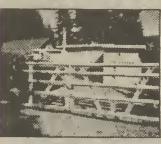
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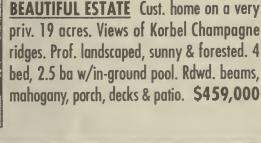
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Susie Bright less than illuminating in 'Sexual State of the Union.'

page 60



David Armstrong strikes out on his own with 'The Silver Cord.'

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAYA REAR REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 18 • 1 May 1997

Secrets and lies

Martin Donovan plays gay dad in British made-for-TV flick

by Chad Jones

Martin Donovan and Ian Hart in *Hollow Reed*.

"And I plucked a hollow reed
And I made a rural pen,
And I stained the water clear,
And I wrote my happy songs,
Every child may joy to hear."

— "The Piper," from *Song of Innocence*,
by William Blake

Watching a child being beaten does not qualify as entertainment, unless the vehicle depicting such violence is an "issue" movie that will ensure social uplift when the child-beater is justly punished and the better side of human nature prevails. *Hollow Reed*, a new drama about a gay father's attempt to free his nine-year-old from the clutches of

page 57 ►

The kids are alright

It's myopic adults who are creating the furor over queer literature for kids

by William J. Mann

Linda Guida is a children's librarian in upstate New York. Standing among the shelves of books and the rows of reading tables, she might just as well be in the midst of a battlefield.

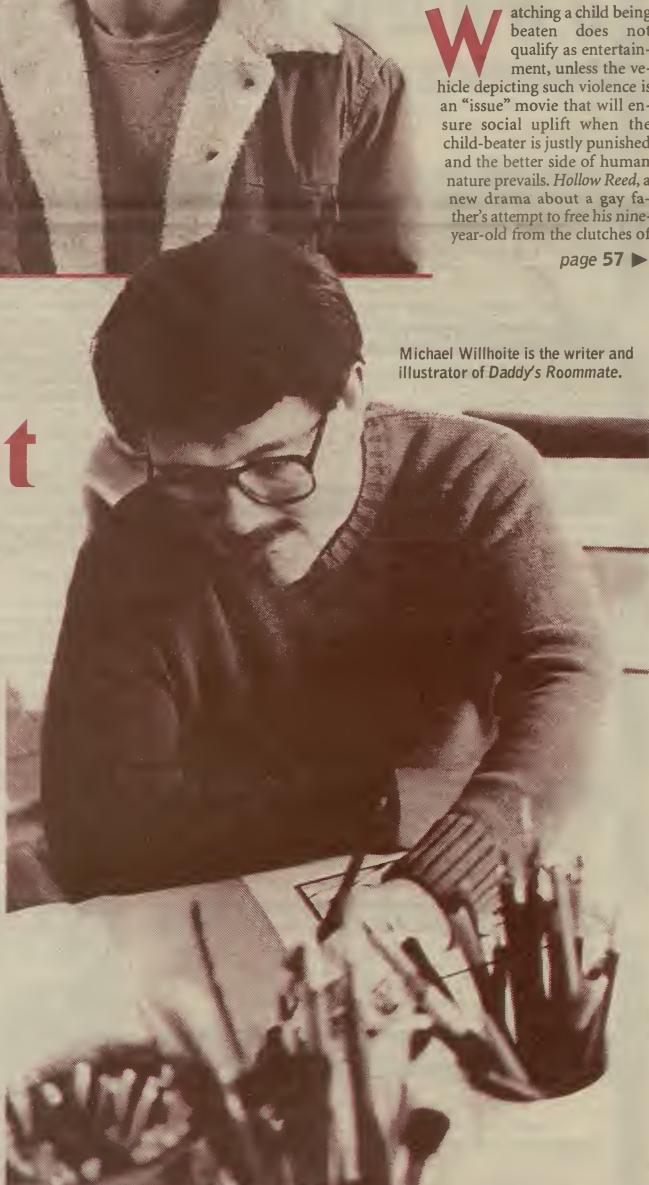
"Sometimes it feels that way," she says. "Every time a child picks up a certain book, I worry, 'Is this going to lead to a battle?'"

Those "certain books" happen to be the gay and lesbian titles. And not just any gay and lesbian books, either. What worries Guida most are the gay-themed picture books, like Lesléa Newman's *Heather Has Two Mommies* and Michael Willhoite's *Daddy's Roommate*, the ones aimed at the youngest readers.

"It's funny how the picture books often cause the greatest stir," she says. "We had to remove *Heather Has Two Mommies* and *Daddy's Roommate* for a time." Guida says rather than risk a highly public controversy, the school board quickly acceded to the parents' demands to take the books off the shelves. "They didn't want a repeat of what happened in the city."

"The city" in this case is New York City, where a protracted fight in 1992 over the inclusion of *Heather Has Two Mommies* and *Daddy's Roommate* in the school curriculum drew national headlines. School Chancellor Joseph A. Fernandez eventually lost his job over "Rainbow Curriculum," an attempt to bring books representing a multicultural spectrum into school libraries.

The fight has never really gone away, except from the headlines. An ongoing battle in Kansas City, Missouri, has been waged over gay-themed children's books in school libraries. In Rutland, Vermont, last year, the public library had to ward off attempts by parents to have *Daddy's Roommate* removed from the shelves. And just last month in Anchorage, Alaska, the school board voted to keep the young adult novel *Earthshine*, about a



Michael Willhoite is the writer and illustrator of *Daddy's Roommate*.



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FRIDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

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by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

It sure was inspiring to see **Ellen Morgan** emerge from the closet on network television last night. Who would have thought just last year that such a thing was possible? We'd like to think this is the start of a trend, that we'll witness more of this sort of thing on the tube, but it's doubtful. If we do see more of ourselves on TV, it's most likely going to be in even more sanitized and infantile vehicles than *Ellen*, and that's hard to imagine.

We don't mean to be flip, but when homosexual culture, which has thrived as a response to oppression, is presented to the masses as little more than a coming-out scenario, only a fool would say we're not being sold down the river, that the outrage that has historically shaped queer sensibility has been publicly defused by being wrapped in the mantle of popular culture, here complete with cooing **Oprah** and lesbian maenads **Melissa** and **k.d. lang**.

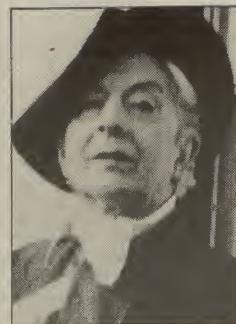
Yes, it's true that one doesn't ordinarily see braless diesel dykes, skinny drag queens in tattered frocks, ACT UP protestors, or lesbian separatists on situation comedies, but if queers aren't careful we're likely to forget in our enthusiasm at becoming part of the airwaves — and that's about all it really amounts to — that these are the real faces of queerdom, not *Ellen Morgan*.

Brainless and hetless

Emerging reports from GLAAD indicate that Oprah Winfrey is being vilified in Middle America for helping *Ellen* come out as a lesbian. No doubt this unfortunate turn of events is going to have a chilling effect on New Queer Hollywood. You can almost hear closet doors slamming shut all over Bel Air. Still, there are encouraging signs that a new awareness to sexual difference is emerging in Tinseltown's products. Take the new disaster epic *Volcano*. In the flick, **Anne Heche**, who finally fessed up in print that she's **Ellen DeGeneres'** homosexual lover, plays a seismologist whose relationship with co-star **Tommy Lee Jones** is decidedly unsexual. This is unusual. Ten years ago it would have been inconceivable for a big-budget Hollywood action epic not to double as an advertisement for heterosexuality.

Genetic drift

Ironically, the normally callow entertainment industry is outpacing certain ivory towers in the sensitivity department. Well, at least the tower belonging to **Professor James Watson**, the Nobel prize-winning scientist who discovered DNA. Dr. Watson touched off something of a controversy in England recently when he said in an interview with London's *The Sunday Telegraph* that



Quentin Crisp.

so vertiginous a presence Pithy nearly fainted. The rest of the show, however, was perhaps a little too restful. The free range of hundreds of artworks had little connective tissue, and ordinarily impressive work — for instance, paintings by **Lari Pittman**, or **Zoe Leonard**'s faux historical stills for **Cheryl Dunye**'s film *Watermelon Woman* — seemed anemic in context.

The art show that everyone was talking about was former San Francisco artist **Nayland Blake**'s bunny-laden installation at **Matthew Marks**. Blake makes a return appearance here with an all-new exhibition at Paule Anglim Gallery opening May 1. There's no place like home.

40 pushing 80

There's an old saying that life begins at 40. Sadly, this appears not to be the case with the San Francisco International Film Festival, which opened its 40th festival last week.

It's true that this annual celebration is now gayer than ever, but would one expect anything less in San Francisco? The wrinkles are popping up in other areas, like in the staid festival management, which failed to produce **Catherine**

Deneuve, as promised, and couldn't even convince **Alan Bennett**, whose work is being honored at this year's big do, to make the journey here from England. Can we blame him? Why go to a festival whose organizers bestow honors on a talent as middling as **Annette Bening**, someone who's been before the public eye for a mere decade?

Only in San Francisco

Just in from the we-can't-believe-it-but-it's true desk comes a report that the **Flower Thrower**, the frustrated florist/opera star who crowns singers with weeds during curtain calls at the San Francisco Opera, was spotted last week at a local musical event with **Christina Scheppeleman**, the San Francisco Opera's Artistic Administrator, in tow. *Oh my.* Can a casting couch, desk, and key to the executive washroom be far behind?

'Hot' remake

Finally, one of our LA birds called this week to tell us that all of Hollywood is talking about a possible remake of *Some Like It Hot*, only none of the powerbrokers involved with the project can agree on the casting. The rumored-to-be dream cast is **Tom Cruise**, **Jim Carrey**, and **Sandra Bullock**. Our source says **Val Kilmer** was interested in reading for the part **Jack Lemmon** so memorably played, and that he's seething with anger that his phone isn't ringing. Poor thing. ▼



FILM

Joan Crawford in *Strait-Jacket*.

Hatchet job

Joan Crawford does Joan Crawford in William Castle's 'Strait-Jacket'

by John Blanco

William Castle titled his autobiography *Step Right Up! I'm Gonna Scare The Pants Off America*, which was fitting for a producer-director who modeled himself after tongue-in-cheek horror flicks. For his 1958 movie *Macabre*, he insured ticket buyers with Lloyds of London for \$1000 each against "death by fright." For 1959's *The Tingler*, he electrically rigged theater seats to buzz the behinds of audience members at key points during the movie.

However, for *Strait-Jacket*, his 1964 movie about an ax-murderous mom, Castle eschewed gimmicks. His goal was to make a respectable horror film, and to that end he enlisted the talents of Oscar-winning cinematographer Arthur Arling and writer Robert Bloch, who penned the novel that later became the basis for Joseph Stefano's *Psycho* screenplay. Most importantly, Castle hired Joan Crawford, fresh from her success in *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?*, to star.

Despite that stellar crew, *Strait-Jacket* sometimes seems like it's little more than a drawn-out episode of *Thriller* or *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*. (Bloch, not surprisingly, regularly wrote for both of those series in the early '60s.) What saves the movie from the dust-bin of B-grade horror flicks are several unintentionally hilarious scenes and an enjoyably hammy, scenery-chomping performance by Crawford.

The movie begins in a small California farming town in 1944. The tough, trampy Lucy Harbin (Crawford), who is described in voice-over narration as "very much a woman and very much aware of the fact," arrives home to discover her husband and his paramour engaged in a post-coital snuggle. Although Crawford, in a rare moment of underplaying, appears only slightly peeved — as if she's come home to find her husband has drunk the last Pepsi — she promptly fetches an ax to exact her revenge. The following scene of Lucy creeping up on the lovers and savagely chopping off their heads while a

theremin plays eerily in the background is the stuff of classic camp-horror. (The scene even earned a scream from the gore-obsessed teens in John Waters' *Seerial Mom*.)

The movie then flashes forward to 1964 and Lucy's release from an insane asylum, where she's been locked up since the murders. She moves into the home of her brother and sister-in-law (Leif Erickson and Rochelle Hudson), who raised Lucy's daughter Carol (Diane Baker). Although a witness to Lucy's gruesome crime as a child, Carol is eager to have her mother back in her life. But before any significant mother-daughter bonding can take place, Lucy's ax is dusted off and heads begin to roll once again. But this time, no one is quite so sure Lucy is to blame.

The *Scooby Doo*-style revelation of the killer's identity at the end of the film isn't nearly as memorable as some of the scenes leading up to it. One of the strangest in the film is when Lucy, all gussied-up like a World War II-era hooker, meets Carol's fiancee. During the course of their meeting, Lucy mysteriously begins reverting to her old ways, swilling

cocktails, shimmying to big band music, and putting the moves on her daughter's man. Apologizing to Carol later, Lucy explains, "When I put those clothes on, something happens to me ... something frightening."

Strait-Jacket gave Crawford the opportunity to go from wanton to crazed to shy and insecure, sometimes all within the course of one scene. One critic's description of her inability to "change her emotions in the middle of a scene without going into a sort of Jekyll and Hyde contortion of the face" was perhaps never more evident than in this film. Particularly in contrast to the subtle Baker, who makes good use of her icy smile, Crawford's emoting seems hysterically over-the-top.

Of course, subtlety and restraint aren't qualities we look for in Crawford or Castle. *Strait-Jacket* isn't the best of the '60s horror films featuring faded cinematic grande dames — that distinction belongs to *Baby Jane* — but much of it is a lurid hoot. ▼

Strait-Jacket plays with Berserk Sunday, May 4 (4:15 p.m. and 8 p.m.) at the Roxie Cinema. Call 863-1087 for information.

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Queer ole opry

Doug Stevens and the Outband find a place in country music

by Connor Kennedy

Doug Stevens has been called everything from a "trailblazer in country music" to the "poor boy with the voice of an angel." It's a lot of weight to carry for a small-town boy from Tupelo, Mississippi, but then Tupelo was the point of origin for another musical maverick, one who would eventually go on to father the future wife of Michael Jackson. Indeed, Doug Stevens is no run-of-the-mill country star. A recent émigré from New York City, openly gay Stevens and his band, the Outband, have been making waves in the old world of country and western music, transforming the genre by laying queer narratives onto sweet love songs and tear-jerking melodies. Not bad for a guy who until a few years ago was touring the world singing opera. Stevens' switch from classical — he performed and toured with the Ensemble for Early Music — to country was inspired by a series of personal upheavals that included Stevens' testing positive for HIV and subsequently being dumped by his boyfriend of five years. Grasping for something to hold onto, Stevens returned to the music his parents and grandparents had fed him as a child. "I thought I could get rid of the pain by writing a



Doug Stevens

country song," the singer relates.

How did a gypsy like Stevens, who has set up camp everywhere from St. Louis to Biloxi, settle down in the Bay Area? After performing here last summer during Gay Pride, the 39-year-old Stevens realized that country music is simply "a lot more popular in the West than in the East," so he decided to relocate. The Outband remained in New York, but Stevens continues to work with the band.

Now settled in San Francisco, the singer has begun assembling a San Francisco-based Outband and working on his third album, whose working title, *From Christopher to Castro*, is an ode to the many men he has loved across America. Stevens has lined up a fiddler, drummer and bass player, but he's still looking for a guitar soloist and an accordion player to complete the line-up. Expect the forthcoming album to feature less blues and more *tejano*, a Latino-influenced sound that one often hears at clubs like the Bench and

Bar in Oakland. "The album will be more fun than the others," says Stevens, explaining that "it's much more easy to feel tragic and heavy on the East Coast. People are just not as serious here."

Doug Stevens started the Outband in New York six years ago, staring down no little skepticism and homophobia in the process. The band's first performance at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center in the West Village attracted more than 300 people. Since then, Stevens has converted more than a few wary queens to the cause of country music. "A lot of gay people told me they didn't like this kind of music till they came to one of our performances," says Stevens, who believes one reason for the phenomenal success of country music among gays and lesbians is that its "narrative-driven music" speaks to us in ways that noisy club music doesn't.

With write-ups in *Billboard*, a third album on the way, and bi-coastal bands at his fingertips,

page 70 ▶

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FILM

Hollow Reed

◀ Arts cover

his ex-wife's abusive boyfriend, is just such an issue movie.

Hollow Reed was originally made for British TV by Channel Four Films. After strong showings at several international film festivals (including last year's San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Film Festival), however, it was picked up by Cinepix Film Properties for commercial release. As directed by Angela Pope, the film is more insightful and restrained than any American made-for-TV movie in recent memory. What could have been a USA Network potboiler — say, *Revenge of the Oppressed Gay Daddy* — becomes an intriguing study in character that avoids the clichés that usually dog these sorts of projects.

Handsome Martin Donovan, an American actor most recently seen in the abysmal *Portrait of a Lady*, portrays Martyn Wyatt, a successful doctor who lives with his lover Tom (Ian Hart) in near-consummation bliss. Joely Richardson is Hannah, Martyn's bitter ex-wife, who has settled into a cozy new life with her new lover Frank (Jason Flemyng), who is, unbeknownst to Joely, beating her son Oliver (newcomer Sam Bould in a beautifully restrained, nearly silent performance).

Every time Frank injures Oliver, the child runs to his father for comfort, armed with a story about falling off a bike or catching his hand in a car door. Martyn soon figures out what is really happening and begins court proceedings to take custody of his son, no small feat for a gay father with limited visitation rights. Things get complicated when Martyn, afraid that his custody battle could be weakened in the eyes of the court by his homosexuality, asks Tom to move out until the trial is over. And Hannah, having discovered Frank in the act of abusing Oliver, ejects him from her home, only to accept him back when he promises never to hurt the boy again. Though the screenwriter has stacked the deck in Martyn's favor, it is to her credit that not one of the characters is

Martin Donovan in *Hollow Reed*.

completely likable. Understandable, yes, but not people you warm to immediately.

Richardson turns in her best screen performance yet as Hannah. She can't believe she has been wrong again about a man. First a homo, then a child-beater. This window of vulnerability is all that manipulative Frank needs to climb back into her bed. The expression on young Bould's face the following morning when he sees his attacker back in his mother's good graces speaks more than any dialogue could convey.

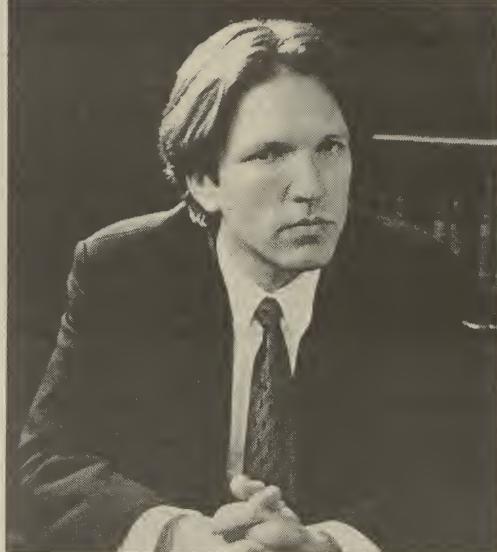
The relationship between Martyn and Tom is generally well-depicted. Director Pope and writer Milne don't skimp on the more passionate side of their relationship: a sexy hallway love scene that has Donovan lustfully groping a nude Hart will undoubtedly cause some jaws to drop (and this, not the child abuse, probably accounts for the film's non-rating). Furthermore, the two men's relationship doesn't strain to be conventional or "normal," but communicates a loving quality as real

istic as it is relaxed.

Director Pope's great misstep in *The Hollow Reed* is the overly dramatic, almost operatic ending. Anne Dudley's heretofore taut score becomes lush and sentimental as director of photography Remi Adefarasin's camera swirls around the characters again and again. Pope is no doubt attempting to let the impact of her denouement resonate, but whatever she's really doing is bleeding the final scene of any satisfying drama. Though ponderous, this final flourish thankfully doesn't lessen the overall dramatic impact of her film.

Hollow Reed is a mostly uncomfortable, often violent 108 minutes. But in the hands of such talented actors and filmmakers, the film is worthwhile for shining light on a dark subject. When was the last time you could say that about a made-for-TV movie? ▼

Hollow Reed opens Friday, May 2 at the Lumiere in San Francisco.



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The background of the advertisement is a grainy, black and white photograph of a person's face. A hand is visible on the right side, holding a lit cigarette between the fingers, casting a shadow over the person's eye area.

A black and white movie poster for "Hollow Reed". The poster features three main characters: a man in profile on the left, a woman in the center, and another man in a plaid shirt on the right. The title "Hollow Reed" is prominently displayed in large, stylized letters across the bottom. Above the title, the lead actors' names are listed: MARTIN DONOVAN and JOELY RICHARDSON. Below the title, the subtitle "Another Secret From The Producers Of The Crying Game" is visible. At the bottom, there is production information and a website address.

Queer lit for kids

Arts cover

child whose father is gay and has AIDS, after some parents had called for its removal.

"There's no question that gay- and lesbian-themed material in schools will continue to be a lightning rod for the Right," says Deanne Duby of People for the American Way. Duby tracks censorship issues for the liberal watchdog group based in Washington, DC. "The Right gets a ton of mileage out of these cases. Anything that mentions homosexuality in anything but a negative way can be charged with 'promoting a lifestyle.'

"There's always more concern the younger the children are," she says. "Conservatives love to charge that [such books] are teaching sodomy to first graders."

Jill Karpf, a librarian in the Montgomery County, Maryland public school district, shares Guida's concerns. Recently, she helped students research topics for a debate on the legalization of drugs, abortion, and gay marriage. But one set of parents who got a glimpse of the books their child brought home complained

to the teacher, and the gay marriage assignment was dropped. "Not their kid being excused from the debate, mind you," Karpf says, "but the whole gay marriage debate dropped."

Picture books, Karpf says, raise even more hackles. A few years ago, after one parent's complaint, her school district forbade children under the fifth grade from seeing the book *Families*, which had won an award from the National Council of Social Workers. "It's a wonderful book, with pictures of all kinds of families, including a gay and lesbian family," she says. "But the county school district ruled it couldn't be shown to the younger children, which was a real problem, since it was meant for younger kids."

Karpf recalls that during the controversy, one of the book's opponents was quoted in the media as saying, "These people [the book's proponents] are trying to get our children to think." Karpf laughs. "Which is right. Isn't that the job of the school?"

Not everyone agrees, however, what "the job" of the school should be. According to those who have led the fight against gay-themed picture books in the nation's libraries (both school and



Leslea Newman, author of *Heather Has Two Mommies*.

public), such titles proselytize, teach children values their parents would rather they not have.

"The whole curriculum is a smoke screen for promoting homosexuality," said Erin Harte of Concerned Parents of Educational Accountability, one of the many ad hoc groups that sprung up in response to New York's Rainbow Curriculum. "It plants the seed early [that] children can either

marry a man or marry a woman."

Which is why *Alfie's Home* was immediately embraced by conservative critics when it was published in 1993. The book gave the appearance of offsetting liberal "proselytizing." Written by Richard Cohen of the International Healing Foundation, an organization advocating "reparative therapy" for homosexuals, *Alfie's Home* depicts a boy who thinks he might be gay. In the course of therapy, however, he realizes his homosexual feelings stem from being abused by an uncle and from his father's neglect. He ends up going straight and marrying a woman.

"I believe *Alfie's Home* presents an alternative perspective for those who wish to change their sexual orientation," says Cohen. "As a former homosexual, I am standing up for what I believe. I respect the choice of those who wish to fulfill their homosexual desires. I would appreciate reciprocal respect for my choice."

Yet the difference between *Alfie's Home* and books like *Heather and Daddy's Roommate* is obvious. Heather isn't struggling with her sexuality; she's simply trying to fit into a world that often condemns the sexuality of her mothers.

"If the charge of indoctrination can be made," says Guida, "it's not towards *Heather Has Two Mommies*, but towards *Alfie's Home*."

It's just such a clash of perspectives that started the furor in 1993 and has kept it going ever since. "There's no question that this is an issue that won't go away," says Guida. "There will be a lull, then something new happens."

The latest volley in the war was prompted by *Alfie's Home*. Or at least GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) has positioned it to be. Recent press releases and online postings have focused attention on the now nearly four-year-old book, accusing it of spreading "lies and myths about the gay and lesbian community."

Alan Klein, national communications director for GLAAD, says his organization is taking a different strategy in the war over children's literature. "This time we're going after them," Klein says. "[*Alfie's Home*] is a desperate attempt on the part of reparative therapists to promote their message of intolerance and bigotry. It's a direct assault on the move to bring progressive children's literature into schools."

Alfie's Home is a first. There are no other such blatantly anti-gay picture books aimed at children. In fact, gay issues and characters have been treated quite favorably when they do appear in books. "I cannot think of a single trade book that has had a negative gay character," says Roger Sutton, editor of *The Horn Book*, an influential review of children's literature. Might then *Alfie's Home* signal a trend? GLAAD's Klein says he doesn't know, but he's cautious. "It very well might be a portent of things to come."

Didactic tomes

At the center of this debate are the children for whom these books are intended. "The Christian radical Right has the perception that we're trying to recruit children into homosexuality via these books," says Leslea Newman, author of *Heather Has Two Mommies*. "But *Heather* isn't about the mothers' sexual orientation. It's about the little girl who views all sorts of families around her. It's absurd to think some kid is going to read *Heather* and become gay. The Christian Right

thinks we're going to influence children's minds before they have a chance to."

"Information is not advocacy," Karpf points out, "not as far as librarians are concerned. But people don't often see it that way."

Guida says she was able to quietly replace *Heather* and *Daddy's Roommate* on the shelves of her public library after the furor in her town died down. Likewise, *Families* is now available again to young readers in Karpf's library; the county school district's ruling was in effect for only three years.

"You have to weigh the needs of your community," Guida says. "We have more and more children now with lesbian parents. We have to meet their needs."

Newman concurs. "The whole reason I wrote *Heather* was because I recognized a need. There is still a glaring omission of books on families other than those with one mother, one father, sisters and brothers."

Newman has helped correct that omission, following *Heather* with several other children's books, including *Gloria Goes to Gay Pride*. Michael Willhoite has also penned other gay-positive children's titles, including *Daddy's Wedding* and *Uncle What-Is-It is Coming to Visit*.

Yet while the number of gay-themed books for children has risen steadily, those of picture books have remained fairly static, in part because of the stigma that conservatives have put on them. But politics isn't the only thing militating against these books. There are troubling aesthetic issues as well.

"There are few good picture books," says David Gale, a senior editor in the children's book division at Simon & Schuster. "So many of them just teach a lesson or make a statement."

For Elizabeth Ford, an associate professor of English at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Delaware, the lack of dimension in gay- and lesbian-themed picture books signals a dangerous lack of awareness about real-life issues. "Shouldn't books be less specifically about the condition and more about the character?" she asks. Where, she wonders, are the picture books that address the complex, nuanced realities of gay and lesbian life? "More and more, children's literature is being seen as a prescription to medicate children for some particular issue." Many of these works, says Ford, are "distancing the reader" from reality.

While Ford calls most gay and lesbian picture books "safe," Linda Guida believes works like *Heather Has Two Mommies* and *Daddy's Roommate* ultimately serve a very real purpose in balancing out the scale. "Gay children's books are the needles in the haystacks of all the rest," she says. "Sometimes you can't even get them in bookstores. That's why I keep them on the shelves."

This discussion will surely continue for some time. As each new issue is resolved, another appears. Of course, as Leslea Newman points out, the controversy over *Heather Has Two Mommies* and the others hasn't been without a few positive side-effects. "It certainly made the book much more visible than it was," she says, resulting in increased sales throughout the country. On the downside, however, the same controversy could help sales of books like *Alfie's Home* and others like it. It's clear that gay- and lesbian-themed literature for children will remain a battleground for some time to come. "It's a fight for the hearts and minds of our children," says Guida. "It's as simple and as profound as that." ▼

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MUSIC

Kid stuff

Maxim Vengerov and Nicolle Foland light up the concert stage

by Timothy Pfaff

Anyone worried about the future of classical music, at least as far as performing artists are concerned, would have been comforted by two recent San Francisco recitals. In mid-April, 22-year-old Maxim Vengerov gave a recital at Davies Symphony Hall that confirmed his reputation as the most talented violinist of his generation. Then, last weekend, 28-year-old soprano Nicolle Foland, acclaimed for her Musetta in last year's San Francisco Opera production of *La Bohème*, sang an eagerly awaited Schwabacher Debut recital at Old First Church, one that met the expectations of all who attended.

Vengerov has matured noticeably as a musician over the course of his five Bay Area appearances. Nevertheless, thrill-seeking string aficionados might have been disappointed by the rather sober program he brought to Davies Hall. Prior to his half-dozen razzle-dazzle encores, his program offered pieces seldom heard in recitals — Elgar's Violin Sonata, Op. 82, and five Tchaikovsky pieces (including two of the violinist's favorites from Op. 42). The one familiar item, Mozart's B-flat Major Sonata, K. 454, was composed for amateurs, and, though substantive, it is hardly showy.

What Vengerov offered in place of pyrotechnics was playing of uncommon depth and jaw-dropping beauty. Even in the Elgar — a difficult late work of the composer — Vengerov managed to imbue the music with a masterful sense of proportion and sureness of tone. His playing all evening was a study in balance as a means of maximizing expression.

Even the Elgar's craggy first movement, which a friend likened to jumping off a cliff, was negotiated with a suppleness that enhanced rather than concealed its subtle but manifold expressive contrasts. Vengerov spun out the long-breathed melody of the sublime middle movement with consummate taste and brought the piece home with, to borrow from Nabokov, slow fire.

While respecting — even relishing — the fundamental simplicity of the Mozart, Vengerov invested it with a ripeness that underscored the work's beauties without overstating them. The Tchaikovsky pieces were performed straight from the heart, boasting playing that was as notable for its concentration as for its aching beauty. Opus 42's "Meditation," the composer's first thought for the middle movement of his Violin Concerto (subsequently replaced by its famous Canzonetta), unfurled in long tendrils of exquisitely wrought, deeply felt sound.

Vengerov and his pianist, the almost self-effacing Igor Uryash, tore into the encores with bravura to spare. The glittering jewels of the group were Fritz Kreisler's "Tambourin chinois" and the indecently beautiful Massenet "Méditation" from *Thais* (rendered more beautifully than on his latest CD).

It hardly bears repeating that Nicolle Foland is the most gifted



Violinist Maxim Vengerov and soprano Nicolle Foland.

and accomplished singer to have come through the San Francisco Opera Center's apprentice program in recent years. The singer's virtues were abundantly evident at Sunday's recital, for which the soprano was accompanied by San Francisco Opera Music Director Donald Runnicles. There wasn't an uncertain pitch or less than beautiful note anywhere in a challenging program of songs by five composers — Dvorak, Poulenc, Haydn, Richard Strauss, and San Francisco's own Jake Heggie — in four languages: Czech, French, German, and English. Clearly, this singer has received the best and most thorough training available — and taken to it like a bird to air. Her sound at full cry is glorious, scrupulously deployed, achieving peak volume without a hint of strain or the faintest coarsening of tone.

Still, the singer's admirable attention to musical values and precise diction were not enough to erase a nagging sense that she is not yet fully invested in the words she is singing, at least those in foreign languages. Foland seems born to sing a piece like Poulenc's "Tu vois le feu du soir," yet somehow the words didn't tell. Even in the three Haydn songs in English, one detected a certain flatness in verbal values. The soprano brought off the charming "Mermaid's Song" by resorting to cuteness when stronger verbal inflections were called for.

There's reason to hope that a more meaningful way with text will come with time, and evidence of that was provided Sunday with her savvy performance of Heggie's new song cycle "Natural Selection," which Foland premiered. The Gini Savage poems Heggie has set with characteristic resourcefulness and verve don't look easy to sing, but Foland dispatched them credibly. In the down-and-dirty "Animal Passion" she purred the final line, "let the cats come," with a sultry conviction that seemed almost out of character for this Iowa native. The cycle's final song, "Connection," gave Foland finer material to work with, and the full-throated ecstasy she brought to its climax provided the afternoon's most radiant moment. She deftly

contrasted Heggie's two different settings of the words "joy alone" with equally beautiful results.

Foland left no doubt that she's firmly in control of her material. What remains is for her to surrender to it. She clearly believes in what she is singing, but that's not the same as trust, of music, text, and, ultimately, herself. Trust takes time. ▶

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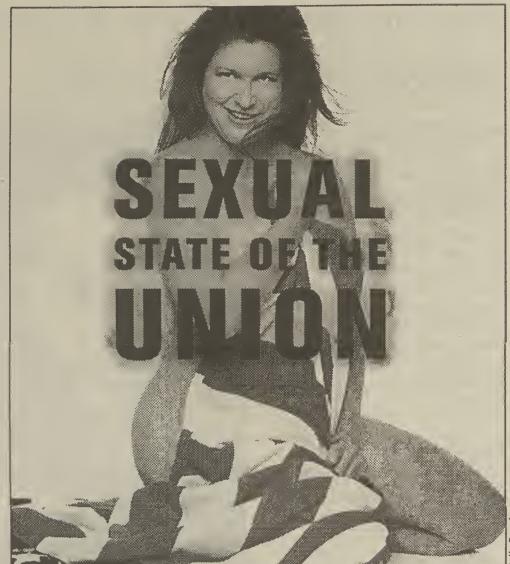
I'd rather be fucking

by Erin Blackwell

Susie Bright's Sexual State of the Union by Susie Bright; Simon & Schuster, \$23

I'm not sure exactly what Susie Bright is trying to achieve with her latest literary effort, but judging from the overflow crowd at a recent book-signing, she's serving up some very successful product. From her never-humble beginnings as editor of San Francisco's own *On Our Backs*, Susie Bright has sold herself as a one-woman sex industry and thereby achieved international name recognition. That's why her book is called *Susie Bright's Sexual State of the Union* by Susie Bright. Less we forget.

While the infantile expansiveness of Susie Bright's ego may grate on some of our nerves, most feminists are obliged to applaud a woman who has so triumphantly taken space as a sexual subject. Never mind that some of her hard-line critics feel she has sold lesbian sexuality to the white man (for example, she was "sexual consultant" on the film *Bound*). The value of what Susie Bright has to tell us — which can never be reckoned in absolute terms — has less to do with any information she might dispense than the overall atmosphere of no-holds-barred permissiveness she exudes. She has taken what she learned from her stint at Good Vibrations and ordained herself a sex guru. An authority figure, even a motherly



Susie Bright on the jacket cover of her new book.

one, Susie Bright can say to crowds of seekers, "Kids, go fuck yourselves silly!"

This may not be a message she invented, but she has successfully made it her own. With commercial success, however, has come a perfectly predictable failure. As sexual taboos continue to crumble and middle Americans become increasingly receptive to previously subversive points of view, Susie Bright's gospel becomes at once more popular and less interesting. Those of us who remember the saucy anecdotes from her lesbian phase may have trouble adapting to the tone of *Susie Bright's Sexual State of the Union*. Abandoning her role of friendly sexual gossip, she seems to have climbed onto some virtual soapbox in order to hold forth on our national dysfunctions. While this may work in person when she's interacting with the faithful, in a book-length treatise the lack of sustained argument, supporting research, or even coherent syntax seriously undercuts her mission.

Not that she didn't have any help. In her acknowledgments, Susie Bright credits three people with being her "breaking-all-previous records" editor, her "best" editor, and her "tireless" editor, while thanking the "miracle" of her "editorial and production assistant." Goddess only knows what the manuscript looked like before they got their hands on it and what exactly they did that merits the euphemism "editor." Take the following confession, pulled from the chapter titled "Little Faith":

For me, it's difficult to believe in God, but it comes naturally to believe in civilization, in common consciousness, in the future of humanity. I have my mysticism too, which cannot be entirely credited to science; in fact, I look at scientists as some of the most mystery-besotted citizens of all. It takes a lot to believe in things we can't see, and our self-interest can lead us to rationalize and defend the most outrageous claims.

While Susie Bright could write a whole book about self-interest, she seems on shakier ground when tossing around terms like "mysticism." Does she have any idea what she's talking about?

Does it matter? What arcane axe is she grinding when she calls scientists "the most mystery-besotted citizens of all?" We'll never know, because she never gets back to it. And it's probably just as well. Susie Bright doesn't have to make sense to sell books or influence people. And today's reader probably doesn't expect coherent discourse from a celebrity writer — especially when the nominal subject is something as mindless as sex.

Slippiness when discussing vibrators may come off as cute, but sloppiness when pretending to analyze the issues that are destroying this culture seems a self-indulgent waste of time. Unless, of course, everybody is consensually on their knees lapping up Susie Bright's drivel. Here's an example of the insight that's in store for consumers, from the chapter called "Good Breeding":

Some people who want to stop abortions are outright women-haters, you can see it in their righteous gaze: hating women for not living with them, choosing them. Their female counterparts are the sister-punishers, the enforcers in skirts who aren't going to let other women have a life if they can't have one. Other patsies in the god squad are the winsome heartbreakers; they look at you like a wounded animal and ask you how you would feel if you had been aborted.

This more-liberal-than-thou name-calling is neither funny nor helpful. Why is Susie Bright stooping to the level of Rush Limbaugh? Doesn't she have better ways of getting off?

Luckily, this breathy stumping doesn't go on for the book's full 251 pages (including index). Susie Bright moves on from God, abortion, safe sex, hate crimes, sex crimes, conservative morality, etc., to more convivial topics like sex surveys and cybersex, but the tone never really improves. She never recaptures that sense I had of her speaking into my ear from across the pillow. She's left the bed and gotten dressed and is out now addressing some Town Hall overflowing with mainstream straights who are considering kinking up their persuasion. Susie, I miss you. But I guess I was just kidding myself. It never was just you and me. ▼

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Roaming in the gloaming

by Steven Jenkins

The Silver Cord by David Armstrong; Scala, \$44.95

Outside of a small circle of art-world insiders, David Armstrong is generally known as photographer Nan Goldin's best friend, a dubious distinction given that he is an accomplished photographer in his own right. With the publication of *The Silver Cord*, however, Armstrong has staked a claim for the importance of his own photography, a gambit that only partially succeeds with this collection. Gorgeously presented, yet repetitively sequenced, the book insistently pushes Armstrong's thematic strengths until they begin to look like weaknesses.

Along with a renegade group of aspiring artists and post-Warhol superstars that includes Goldin, Jack Pierson, Mark Morrisroe, and Tabboo!, Armstrong emerged in the 1970s from the so-called Boston School, members of which worked and slept with each other while forming a warts-and-all documentary aesthetic that defied preppy New England Puritanism. For the past two decades, Armstrong has documented with diaristic candor the people and places that are closest to him. Whereas Goldin favors oversaturated colors and the beautiful mess of weathered faces and grungy apartments, Armstrong's black-and-white images strive for a more idealized, classical beauty. Nostalgic, seductive, yet elegantly chaste, Armstrong revels in pretty persuasion and unfulfilled desire.

Borrowing its title from the Book of Ecclesiastes' "Span of Life," a sermon that celebrates youth and urges spiritual awakening before "the silver cord is snapped," Armstrong's collection of idyllic portraits and landscapes can be viewed as either a temporary triumph of Eros over Thanatos or, as Goldin writes in her affectionate afterward, "a love sonnet American-style to the Boy as icon." The book begins with a quote from Henry James' 1881 novel *The Portrait of a Lady*: "Part of the afternoon had waned, but much of it was left, and what was left was of the finest and rarest quality." Film director Jane Cam-



Nan at Köpenickerstrasse, Berlin, 1994, by David Armstrong.

pion fumbled in attempting to capture this hazy twilight in her recent adaptation of the novel, yet Armstrong gets it just right in his images, all of which are suffused with the fading light and shadowy atmosphere of perpetual late-afternoon.

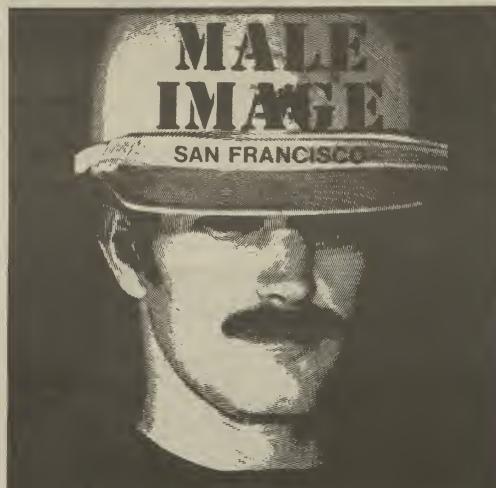
This well-honed style makes for some lovely pictures, but their essential sameness is problematic in book form. Turning through page after page of pretty boys in bed, standing on the lawn, or in front of floral wallpaper, it's difficult to distinguish among Armstrong's handsome subjects (though several shots of his lover Andrew resonate strongly). There's a look-but-don't-touch quality in these portraits of brooding men, while the women (Nan included) come through with more immediacy. More intriguing are the moody, deliberately blurred landscapes and architectural studies taken throughout Europe and New England. Armstrong's lack of specifics emphasizes the light, air, and feel of

a place—Versailles, Krakow, Sans Souci, Central Park West—so that all locales, no matter how foreign or familiar, are transformed into sites of mystery. Armstrong is an engaging tour guide through the gloaming, yet the inclusion of some lackluster work in *The Silver Cord* tarnishes the journey. ▼

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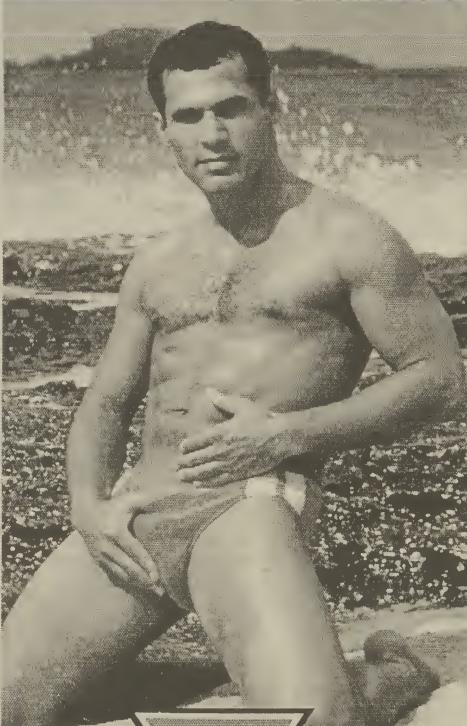
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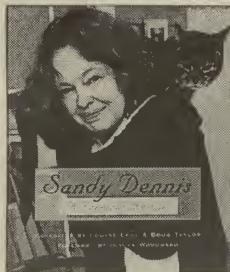
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Low-glam wonder

by Deborah Peifer

Sandy Dennis: a personal memoir, edited by Louise Ladd and Doug Taylor; Papier-Mache, \$14.95

Let me try to tell you what it was like to read *Sandy Dennis: a personal memoir*. The book is short, only 77 pages, but in the mere hour it took to read her words, I felt I had made a wonderful friend, become her trusted ally, and then tragically lost her when she died of ovarian cancer at the age of 54. I knew this was a posthumous memoir when I began reading, but so intimate is this book that I forgot its author had died in the joy of meeting her.

This is no Hollywood biography. There are no lists of films or roles originated on Broadway. Her two Tony Awards, for *A Thousand Clowns* and *Any Wednesday*, as well as her Oscar for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* are mentioned by her editor, Doug Taylor, in his introduction. Nor is this a tell-all biography of who slept with whom and why. Instead, Dennis writes of everyday life, of cats and gardens, of childhood events filled with portent and humor. She shares ordinary moments with extraordinary skill.

"I had a lovely, funny, fat cat called Octavia who used to back up and pee into the telephone jacks, causing a complete shutdown and labored explanations to the phone company. Last year the condenser in the refrigerator burned up. The repairman dis-

covered abnormal amounts of cat hair which had collected and caught fire. Exclamations of horror and surprise seemed pointless. The man was standing in a kitchen filled with some thirty very interested cats and they weren't bald."

Dennis uses the stuff of life to make wry and often moving observations about her life. Faced with a garden that looks "more like a pond full of dirt than a flower bed," she fantasizes about a gardener "who has never run at the sight of a slug." Imagining a splendid garden, thanks to the mythical gardener, she knows her "house will be filled with flowers, roses full blown. Nothing, no one will eat these soft fragrant petals and leaves ... I close my eyes and dream of things I've seen on PBS."

In her introduction, Joanne Woodward writes: "When I finished reading her stories I felt a true sadness, not only for her death, but for the loss of her unique voice and talent. What a tragedy she wasn't able to continue writing for many more years to come." A tragedy indeed. Don't compound it by failing to read this remarkable and life-affirming memoir. ▼

Detective Tru North is barely surviving a brutal break-up. Closeted at work, owing to a blisteringly homophobic captain, she can't even get the support of her co-workers during her meltdown. Seeking the comfort of drunken anonymity, she travels to a local dyke bar where she encounters a stranger who teaches her just how much can happen to a woman who is leaning against another's thighs. The encounter is so intensely erotic and so markedly public that Tru wonders if she dreamt the entire orgasmic event.

But a bomber is on the loose, and with no clues and no leads this is the perfect case for Tru. The plan, hatched by the homophobic captain, is for Tru to fail at an impossible task so that he can force her out of the department. With personal and professional lives in turmoil, Tru is a danger to herself and in serious need of friendly and loving intervention. A search for a psychological profile of the bomber leads her to Marki, she of the erotically charged thighs, who wants to get to know Tru better. It's a mark of McClellan's skill that this unbelievable meeting is rendered credibly.

McClellan has worked in law enforcement for 26 years, and her cop characters are realistically drawn. She does a fine job of explaining police procedure without ever seeming to lecture. The plot is charged with immediacy and filled with little scenes that are splendidly wrought. No fooling. If you've ever wondered what it might be like to have sex secretly in a crowded room, you'll know after you read this novel.

Unfortunately, McClellan's language is frequently unclear. "Her innovations and daring had given them some palatable relief." Palatable? Shouldn't that be palpable? Or this gem: "The officers on the scene had thought the perpetrators were believed to be inside." Like many novice writers, McClellan's writing suffers from too many adverbs. But these impediments are fixable with good editing and greater effort. Believe me, a writer who can pen an erotic bar scene and create the plots of *K.C. Bomber* is a pleasure to discover. ▼

Thigh master

by Deborah Peifer

K.C. Bomber by Janet McClellan; Naiad, \$11.95

My guess is that three or four novels down the road, Janet McClellan will be one of those writers whose books are awaited with joyous anticipation. On the evidence of *K.C. Bomber*, however, I'd have to say that McClellan is not yet on that level. Still, there are enough hints in these pages to suggest she is a writer of skill.

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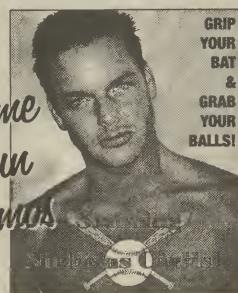
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Celebrate 75 years of the landmark Castro Theatre on May 6 (5 p.m.) when Frameline and Mary Wings launch "She Came to the Castro," a historical mystery tour and book publication party. The event begins with a champagne reception in the Castro Theatre mezzanine followed by a tour of the legendary theatre by Trevor Hailey. The 90-minute celebration concludes with a reading from Wings' new mystery, *She Came to the Castro*. The event is a benefit for the annual SF International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. Tickets are \$20 and are available by phone at (415) 703-8656, or at the door. ▼

VIDEO

Out on video

Recent video releases

by Will Shank

Grace of My Heart, written and directed by Allison Anders

The lesbian singer played by Bridget Fonda is not the lead in *Grace of My Heart*, but the character and her brief scenes are as quirky and endearing as the entire quirky and endearing movie. As she croons "My Secret Love," Fonda's girlfriend outside the sound booth blows silent kisses to her. Almost no one saw this small gem of a musical when it was released theatrically last year. The plot centers on the frustrations and successes of Illeana Douglas (so memorable as Matt Dillon's ice-skating sister in Gus Van Sant's *To Die For*) as a Carole King-type songwriter from 1958 to 1970. Anders' screenplay and Douglas' performance shine in what is probably the most memorable film about the music business since *What's Love Got to Do With It?* The soundtrack is a wonderfully eclectic mix, everything from '60s retro through new music by Joni Mitchell, Burt Bacharach, and Elvis Costello. ▼

That Thing You Do, written and directed by Tom Hanks

A perfect musical companion to *Grace of My Heart* is *That Thing You Do*. If Tom



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Hanks were a movie, he would be *That Thing You Do*. The film so bears his all-American, sweet-natured signature that it's impossible not to give in to the film's many charms. Against all odds, and with the help of a no-nonsense agent from Musicland (Hanks himself), four kids from middle America become one-hit wonders in 1964. The Beatlesque soundtrack is toe-tapable, the young cast is thoroughly engaging, and the premise is classic Hollywood. In addition, the young lovers are played by lovely Liv Tyler and scrumptious Johnathan Schaech, about whom everyone asked, "Who is he?" when he appeared as Winona Ryder's sex object last year in *How to Make an American Quilt*. ▼

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Joe Goode Performance Group begins its second decade of dance theater with a world premiere, *Four Feelings*, May 8-18 at the Cowell Theater. Excerpts from last year's *The Maverick Strain* and 1995's *Take/Place* are also on the program.

Four Feelings features longtime company member Marit Brook-Kothlow performing a luxuriant solo and passionate duet recalling the wonder and sensuous pleasure of a child in nature. The piece also features the work of the company's newest member, Felipe Barreto Cabello.

Tickets are priced at \$20 and are available from City Box Office at (415) 922-4400 and all BASS ticket agencies. For more information, call Joe Goode Performance Group at 648-4848. ▼

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First-rate revival

by Mister Marcus

In its 1997 revival, American Brotherhood Weekend sprang into life last weekend (April 25-27), producing an audible gasp in response to the resuscitation techniques of sponsors Jim Cobb and Roger Fleming (both of up-state New York). Of course, they had a whole lot of help from Vern Stewart and Sarah Humble, not to mention a loyal group of volunteers who refused to let the tradition die.

Yes, another leather gathering in Washington, D.C., with six men competing for American Leatherman, three women for American Leatherwoman, and one male and one female for American Leatherboy. All were obliged to perform fantasies as part of the scoring, so the entertainment value throughout was on a high level.

Howard Johnson Suites on upscale Rhode Island Ave. was the host hotel, and Mary Elizabeth, a wealthy leather matron, hosted the first event of the weekend with a swank cocktail party on Friday night in her Virginia digs. The crowd then migrated to the D.C. Eagle, where the "meet and greet" (contestants and judges) took place. Right off, plaques of appreciation were presented to the

winners. On Saturday morning, while weekend package holders were enjoying a lavish brunch at the Club Improv (site of the competitions), I joined the panel of judges (Cindy Bookout, Mike DeNisco, Greg Lowe, Kevin McGraw and Ms. Stacy) for the boy judging; later the panel was expanded to include Joe Morris, Larry Everett and IMD Kyle Brandon for the other two titles.

The boy competition took place in the early afternoon at Club Improv, with leather image, speeches, questions, fantasies and "hot wear" segments. The scores were tallied throughout by Roger Fleming and Ron Gurney, and were eventually presented to master emcee Frank Nowicki. Max Steiner of Baltimore is the new American Leatherboy. Max is the former Ms. Baltimore Eagle leather, and now she's the first woman to win a "boy" title in a major competition. Max is one of the finest leather people you'd ever want to meet. The runner-up was Boy David of Orlando, Fla.

Saturday night was a free-for-all at the Green Lantern, DC Eagle and Mr. P's. That hot man, Keith



American Brotherhood Weekend winners (l to r): American Leatherwoman Leslie Anderson, American Leatherman Jim Raymond and (kneeling) American Leatherboy Max Steiner.

Wells of NYC, biked in for the festivities to soothe the frazzled nerves of one of the "aging" judges, and unfounded rumors of a "royal" wedding were unmercifully bandied about! One of the "newer" title holders from the Midwest got snagged by a "dowager" title holder (both married, no children). The big joke all weekend was whether their offspring would be a leather "litter" — all born with sashes in place!

Sunday morning brought another delightful brunch at Club Improv (with Mr. Nowicki posing in front of the club's logo and shouting, "Eat your heart out, Shan Carr!"), and by 1400, the competition was back in progress. The leather men and women did their thing — and did it well — in all the various segments. The speeches were definitely "from the heart," with poignancy and humor injected throughout. The fantasies were great, and the audience response was loud and appreciative.

Brief speeches by IMs L Jill Carter and Ms. NLA Intl. Stacey were met with applause. Some \$200 was collected for the Leather Archives, and title sashes were donated to the archives as well. (The "signing" for the deaf was executed throughout by the inimitable Llauger Valentin, who will again sign at IML next month.)

After Mr. Nowicki enumerated the prizes (including a \$1000 travel fund for the winners), the talles (utilizing the Olympic Scoring system) were delivered to the stage. At exactly 1700, Albuquerque's Leslie Anderson became American Leatherwoman 1997. The first runner-up was Khiki Cavanaroff of Atlanta, and the second runner-up was Jan Heifner of Baltimore. Bedlam in the audience.

In the American Leatherman competition, Jim Raymond, long-time Centaur MC member and producer of the Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend for many years, got the sash. The first runner-up was Darryl Flick of Richmond, Va., long an influential leather activist in the Washington metro area. The very handsome Mufasa of Chicago was second runner-up. Mufasa was also the runner-up in the recent Chicago Cell Block Leather competition. Flash bulbs popped all over the place, and shrieks of happiness filled the Improv.

It's safe to say that American Brotherhood is well on its way to a successful future. Everyone came away with admiration for the smoothness of the entire event. Thanks, Jim and Roger, for a great, great weekend!

I wasn't here at home for the entire weekend, but the Constantines' 500 weekend run to Reno has garnered rave reviews and Club Eros' fifth anniversary party was the talk of the town. No results at my deadline on the Mr. Boston Leather, Mr. Piston Leather (Long Beach) or the Mr. Philadelphia Leather (held Sun-



American Leatherwoman finalists (l to r): Jan Heifner, second runner-up; Leslie Anderson, winner; and Khiki Cavanaroff, first runner-up.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, May 1

The Edge Bar celebrates its sixth anniversary tonight from 2000 on. You could win a round trip for two to Puerto Vallarta by purchasing \$1 raffle tickets to benefit Family Link. Danny Williams emcees. Another prize is a \$100 gift certificate to Lunn's. There will be Edge Award presentations, hot jungle boys, cheap tropical drinks (how cheap, Eric?) and cruising galore. Congrats to a community-friendly bar, Eric and the staff!

Mr. September '98 will be chosen at the Eagle tonight at 2200. Win \$100, fame, perhaps a husband – all for the calendar that benefits the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Free and anonymous HIV testing upstairs at 933 Harrison, 2030 to 2230, by Blow Buddies and the Stop AIDS Project.

Greg Day's erotic photo show opens tonight at 933 Harrison. See column for details.

Weekend, May 2-4

The Cinch on Polk launches a Cinco de Mayo celebration with all sorts of "specials," mariachis and fun galore.

Utica Tri's celebrate their 11th anniversary with all sorts of upstate N.Y. shenanigans. Congratulations, guys.

Saturday, May 3

Choosing Ms. Washington State Leather at Neighbors in Seattle. No details at my deadline. IML sendoff for Mr. Alameda County Leather Roger Luttrell at the Turf Club in Hayward, 1500-1800, with a \$6 beer bust or \$8 for beer and barbecue.

"Leather & Lashes" party at The Stockade in San Jose, with fantasies, 50/50 raffle and auction by Mr. & Ms. Santa Clara County Leather Sharon and Doug. Call 408/262-8222 for details.

The annual Closet Ball at the Gift Center Pavilion (doors open at 7 p.m.), where drag "virgins" don makeup and gowns for the first time. Whoever

makes the most believable transition (MTF) wins the title. Always a fun event. Call 415/673-0133 for more info.

GSGRA/Bay Area Chapter (the cowboys) beer bust from 2000 to 2300 at the Eagle. Only \$8. Check out the horses in front!

Mr. Sacramento Drummer contest at the Wreck Room (2513 Broadway) in the state capital at 2130. The winner will compete for Mr. Northern California Drummer later this year.

Sunday, May 4

Cal Eagles MC's Cinco de Mayo beer bust at the SF Eagle, 1500-1800. Only \$8 with all the suds you can quaff. Also Inter-Club Fund bike blessing at the Eagle at 1430. Don't tempt the crazies who drive in this town! Get it blessed!

Tuesday, May 6

Lou Duff's rope show at Castlebar. The topic is "Intermediate Bondage and Fancy Rope You Can Wear." Call 550-0122 for details.

Wednesday, May 7

Leathermen's Discussion Group upstairs at the Lone Star Saloon at 1930. The subject tonight: rubber bondage. This a free event.

Thursday, May 8

Basket contest at the Edge. Win prizes, money, photo sessions. Danny Williams emcees.

STD checkups upstairs at 933 Harrison by Blow Buddies and the SF Health Department. Avail yourself of these services.

Butt-Rageous returns to Daddy's by Daddy Loren, with a \$7 beer bust, raffle tickets and butt-watching galore!

Weekend, May 10-11

Cal Eagles MC's weekend run to Morro Bay, \$65 or \$75. Leaving from the Castro Station at 0830 Saturday, May 10. Call 267-0560.

day night) contests, but when I get them, you'll be the first to know.

Venerable erotic photographer Greg Day opens his "Fotos Verboten" show at 1800 tonight at Blow Buddies (933 Harrison), with a reception until 2100. It will hang here until June 30, and another segment opens in Berlin on May 18. Tom Ammiano and other notables will be on hand, and the

homoerotic photos are sure to please you. The May 18 show in Berlin is in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the gay movement in that city. Don't miss it!

This past weekend seemed to be the culmination of leather competitions throughout the nation. It's thought that there will be close to 60 contestants at IML in

Chicago next month. Leather men everywhere are pumping up, studying and preparing speeches. The judges are in place, and the hotels (five of them!) are booked solid as leather men for IML and Bears for the Chicago Bears weekend get ready to descend on the Windy City. It should be a great Memorial Day Weekend, and I hope you'll be there! ▼

From butch to busty

by Sweet Lips

Yes, dear folk, it's time once again for that annual extravaganza: the Closet Ball. This year's edition, courtesy of Robert Michael Productions, takes place Saturday, May 3, at the Gift Center Pavilion, 888 Brannan, from 8 p.m. on (doors open at 7 p.m.). Billed as San Francisco's "most outrageous coming out party," this event always amazes with its parade of first-time dragsters strutting their stuff in sequins and taffeta and rhinestones and bugle beads. Never have so many shoes been stretched out in one evening! Never has so much mascara been misapplied! Thrill to mammarys that maim! Stilettos that kill! Tickets are available at the Giraffe (1131 Polk) or the venerable Marlene's (488 Hayes). Please call 415/673-0133 for more info. P.S. There's no truth to the rumor that a former empress (whose initials indicate a time of day) will be coming as Lucrezia Borgia, though many think she's missing the boat for not donning the garb of her *obvious* role model.

To the kind reader in Osaka who inquired about my title "Czaria de Turk Street": Turk Street is a lovely oak-lined boulevard in San Francisco that rivals the Champs Elysees in scope, tone and general magnificence. A stat-

ue of *moi* by sculptor George Segal in my traditional ermine robes, diamond-topped scepter and white vinyl go-go boots graces the deservedly famous park in the center of Turk Street, where for decades generations of poets, playwrights, painters and other creative types have looked to my likeness for a little inspiration. Thanks for asking!

Spring Break Weekend Connie Stevens, Connie Francis, Yvette Mimieux, Paula Prentiss and

Troy Donahue won't be there, but you'd be a fool to miss this "four-bar salute to the great places for good times." This swinging soirée takes place May 2-4 at the following Polkstrasse venues: Palm Springs Giraffe, Daytona Beach Reflections, Ft. Lauderdale Kimo's and South Beach Rendezvous. Be sure to catch the Sunday beer bust from noon to 5 p.m. at all four bars. Win a trip for two to Palm Springs! And yes, I'll be manning the helm all three days from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the PR, so do drop by for a libation or two! The Girl With Something Extra, Ms. Greta Grass, will be on the plank at the Giraffe on Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. You haven't lived till you've seen Greta lip-synch "Pineapple Princess!" An-

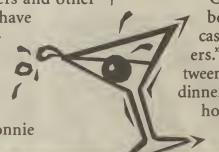
nette would be so proud!

On Friday, May 9, starting at 5 p.m. at the Cinch (1723 Polk), it's Mario Enriquez's 50th birthday party. Dennis "Sauerkraut and Safflower" Tyler will be doing the culinary honors for the Golden Girl, and the fete boasts "canapés, cashews and cocksuckers." Is the latter between courses or an after-dinner treat? Maybe a hot hors d'oeuvre?

On Sunday, May 11, 4-8 p.m., the Lone Star Saloon (1354 Harrison) will be throwing a beer bust for those corpulent cut-ups, the Girth and Mirth Club. Poster gal Greta Grass will have to hustle over from the Giraffe to make this bash!

Birthday greetings go out to Portland's Steve Suss on May 8th, my good friend Chester on the 11th, and my buddy Barton Dreyer on the 12th. Ice cream for everyone!

Thanks, Howard Loy, for your nice letter. Glad I could be of service. I'm happy knowing the condoms I brought to Puerto Vallarta are being put to good use. Despite opposition from the Catholic Church, the safe sex message must be spread south of the border as well. Sweet Lips sez: "Use your rubbers, boys and girls!" ▼



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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman

Chabui surrounded by demons in *In Xanadu*.

Dark shadows

Sweet irony: South Park, heart of Cybergulch and home of more electronic-age on-line hot-wired multimedia start-ups than you can shake a cordless mouse at, will be the setting Friday night for a decidedly low-tech entertainment. ShadowLight Productions will present a free performance of a traditional Balinese shadow play, *Wayang Bali*, outdoors in the park at twilight (approximately 8 p.m.), using live music, coconut oil flames, shadows and light.

Balinese shadow puppets have been around since the 11th Century, acting out stories from Hindu mythology, usually involving gods, demons, and a princess or two. South Park will ring with Gamelan music and reek of incense. ShadowLight Artistic Director Larry Reed says, "In the Balinese tradition, performances are free. Audiences are invited to move around during the show and watch the magic from both sides of the screen."

The twilight performances are appetizers for ShadowLight's upcoming epic shadow theater work *In Xanadu*, which returns to the Bay Area for a run at the Cowell Theater, Fort Mason, May 21 through 25. It's the saga of Mongol leader Kubilai Khan, his wife Chabui, and their monstrous empire. Shadowmaster Reed promises "the power of film and the immediacy of live performance."

Meanwhile, a Balinese shadow play performed behind a screen illuminated by firelight sure sounds better than digital shadows from the sickly blue glow of the cathode ray tube behind the puppet theater of our computer screen. ▼

Wayang Bali will be presented in two free outdoor performances in South Park (off 2nd Street near Bryant) at twilight (around 8 p.m.) on Friday, May 2 and 9. Call 648-4461 for information.

In Xanadu will be performed at the Cowell Theater, Fort Mason, Wed., May 21 through Sun., May 25. Call 392-4400 for tickets.

Fri

Baby Snatching Dingoes

"Versus the Kamikaze Transvestite Vampyre Tuna," dyke sketch comedy group. Fri.-Sun. thru 5/11 at 8pm. \$8-12. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St., #216C. 863-2989.

Caligula

Bleeding Stone Theatre presents Camus' tragedy about the mad Roman emperor. Fri. & Sat. thru 5/17 at 8pm. \$12. EXIT Stage Left, 156 Eddy. 267-1812.

En Drag

Female impersonators, hosted by Chablis, Platinum Foxx. \$5. 10&11:30pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

The Face by the Door

Kristina Robbin's solo show: lip-liner and a hot night in Dallas. Thurs.-Sat. thru 5/3 at 8:30pm. \$8-12. The Marsh, 1620 Valencia. 826-5750.

Gay Comedy Night

Gay comics on new night. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Jam on the Groove

Urban choreography by Ghett Original Production Dance Group. Wed.-Sun. thru 5/4. \$14-26. Tonight at 8pm. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley. (510) 642-9988.

Jesus Christ Superstar

Metropolitan Community Church's production. Fri. & Sat. thru 5/17 at 8pm. \$15. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4436.

Louisiana Purchase

42nd Street Moon presents concert of Irving Berlin's musical romp. Thurs.-Sun. thru 5/11, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$18. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Magic, Sex and Politics

Starhawk, Carol Queen, Jules Beckman, Mark Growden, Jim Owen perform, benefits Witch Camp Scholarships. \$10-50. 8pm. 848 Community Space, 848 Divisadero. 923-1458.

Making Porn

Porn star Ryan Idol in Ronnie Larsen's play about gay porn industry. Wed.-Sun. thru 5/18, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$25. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

Remember Cambodia

Sheila Pinkel's mixed-media project, with Ken Miller and Pearl Ubungen's *'Take me to the Tenderloin, Now!'* Thru 5/3. SF Camerawork, 115 Natoma. 764-1001.

Rocky Horror Superstar

Klubstitute Kollective presents Ruby Toosday's spectacle, the Jesus of Frankfurter story. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm extended thru 5/3. \$15. Victoria Theater, 2961 16th St. 339-8113.

Same Sex Swing

Lessons, 7:30pm; dance, 9pm. \$8-10. Metronome, 300 DeHaro. 252-9000.

Sent(a)Mental

Recent paintings & other works by transgender artist Daphne Scholinski, thru 5/4. Lawrence L. Hultberg Fine

Art, 544 Hayes. 861-8251.

Slaying the Dragon

Asian American Dance Performances presents Nancy Ng's suite of dances. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm. \$12.50-16.50. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

Tea and Crumpets

Original musical comedy by Joel Adlen and Steve Josephson. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm extended thru 5/3. \$15. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 487-5473.

Wandering Ghost

"Visions of Lafcadio Hearn, Part I," multimedia Theatre of Yugen production. Thurs.-Sun. thru 5/18, call for times. \$12-15. Tonight at 8pm. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa. 621-7978.

Wayang Bali

Shadowlight Productions presents traditional Balinese shadow play, free. 5/2&9. 8pm. South Park, 2nd St. near Bryant. 648-4461.

Aguillas, El Ambiente

Marit Brook-Kothlow and Felipe Barrueto Cabello of Joe Goode Performance Group, performing at the Cowell Theatre. See Thursday.

What the Butler Saw

Chameleon Theatre Co. in Joe Orton's farce. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 5/10. \$10. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 626-6404.

Francisco Alarcón
Reading from *Laughing Tomatoes and Other Spring Poems*, free. 3pm. Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th St. 826-8009.

Hesperion XX

Contestants turn from macho to bodacious beauties. Doors 7pm, show 8pm. Call for ticket info. Giftcenter Pavilion, 888 Brannan. 673-0133.

Lucy Jane Bledsoe
Reading from her first novel, *Working Parts*, free. 7:30pm. Boadea's Books, 398 Columbus, Kensington. (510) 559-9184.

Cinco de Mayo

Latin dance club, Mariachi Perla, go-go boys, benefits Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida. \$10. 10pm-4am. Futura, 174 King. 665-6715.

Cinco de Mayo

Latin dance club, salsa & merengue, go-gos, benefits "The Second Farewell," musical theater diva's new ex-

Club Analog
New electronic music discotheque, performance by Matmos. \$3. 10pm-2am. Skylark, 3089 16th St.

Lipsynka's Greatest Hits

Survey of artist's films, incl. premiere of *MURDER and murder*. Fri. & Sun. at 18:30pm thru 5/4. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Flesh & the Word 4

Reading by local contributors, editor Michael Lowenthal, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Mecca

Janelle Moon, Forest Hamer read, open mike, free. 1pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Michael C. Botkin

Show commemorates life and work of journalist & provocateur. Sat. & Sun., 2-5pm thru 5/25. Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, 973 Market, 4th fl. 777-5455.

24 Carrot 'Lady'

Lady Bunny in her one-woman show: country numbers, jazz standards and disco showstoppers. Sun.-Tues. thru 5/6 at 10pm. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Assimilation

Photographs by Pipo Nguyen-Duy, thru 5/21. Bucheon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 863-2891.

Bubble Rap

Cartoon cuttakes from artists' fantasies, incl. Timothy Cummings, Nicole Eisenmann, Jim Shaw, Kevin Woodson. Thru 5/11. Place Pigalle, 520 Hayes. 885-2800.

Corky Hale

Pianist, harpist and singer in her SF debut. Tues.-Sat. at 8pm thru 5/10. \$15-20. Plush Room, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Mon

Blue Plate Special

Four original vignettes, by Craig Landry, Alison Wright, Charlotte Higgins, and Gigi Gambie. Mondays at 8pm, thru 5/19. \$7-10. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 673-7559.

Kristin Borgeson

Floral abstract photography, reception tonight. Thurs May. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes.

Frank Pietronigro

Retrospective exhibition of paintings and works on paper. Mon.-Fri. thru 6/27. Atrium Gallery, 901 Market. 695-0933.

Gay Comedy Open Mike

MC Karen Ripley, aspiring funny performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

MFA Grad Exhibit

SFSU Art Dept. shows work by nine young artists, thru 5/23. Arts and Industry Bldg., SFSU, 1600 Holloway. 338-6535.

Ramon Markus Kadi

Art exhibit, with Xavier Castellanos, Christopher Ryan. Thru 5/16. Lobby, 595 Market. 552-2592.

Wet Wit

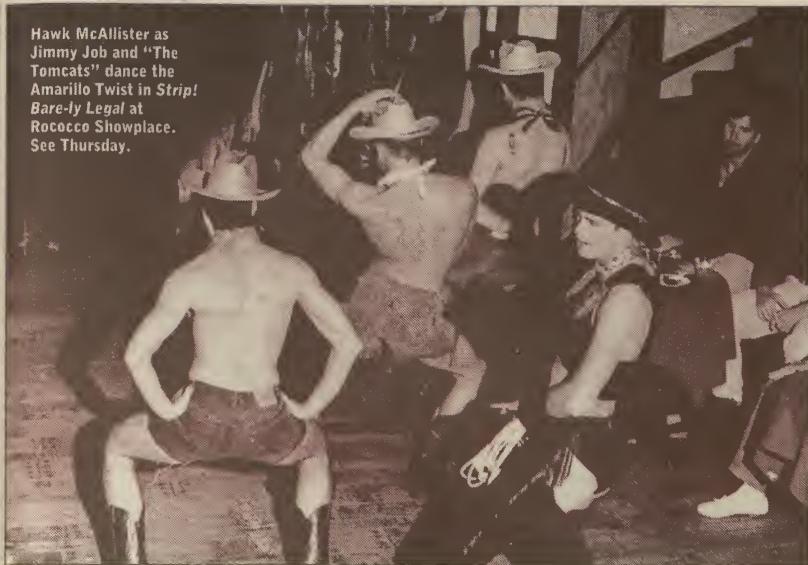
"Getting Carried Away with the Flood," photo exhibit of recent natural disaster by Ron Lazar. Thru 5/27. Coffee Bazaar, 14045 Armstrong Woods, Guerneville. (707) 869-9706.

Tues



Pianist, harpist, singer Corky Hale (here with Frank Sinatra) plays the Plush Room. See Tuesday.

Hawk McAllister as Jimmy Job and "The Tomcats" dance the Amarillo Twist in Strip! Bare-ly Legal at Rocco Showplace. See Thursday.

**Grease**

Tommy Tune's production, starring Sally Struthers, Adrian Zmed, Mackenzie Phillips. Tues.-Sun. thru 5/11, call for times. \$15-62.50. Tonight at 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre, Taylor at Market. 776-1999.

Hugh Shurley

Exhibition of mixed media collages. Thru 5/10. John Pence Gallery, 750 Post. 441-1138.

Michelangelo Signorile

Reading from *Life Outside*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Modernist Nudes

Photographs from the '20s by Frantisek Drtikol. Tues.-Sat. thru 5/24. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

Shame

"And other observations," narrative photographs by Stephen J. Alba. Tues.-Sun. thru 5/15. Rayko Gallery, 2423 Polk. 567-9067.

Wed

Going, Going, GONE
Director Anne Bogart and

Saratoga Internat'l Theater Institute Company in West Coast premiere. Wed.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 5/18. \$20. Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-8822.

Great Brits

Exhibit of creative British influences on SF performing arts. Thru 6/14. SF Performing Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

Jay DeFeo

"Works, 1952-89," first major exhibition of late Bay Area artist, thru 5/25. Berkeley Art Museum, 2625 Durant, Berkeley. (510) 642-0808. Also: "Jay DeFeo: The Florence View and Related Work" exhibit, thru 6/1. Museo ItalAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2556.

Palpitations

Keith Hennessy revisits love songs, prayers, gestures. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 5/17. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Singer's Boy

Olympia Dukakis in ACT's production of Leslie Ayvazian's comic fable. Tues.-Sun. thru 6/1, call for times. \$19-47.50. Geary Theater, 415

Geary. 749-2228.

Survival System Train

Sculpture by Kenji Yanobe on exhibit; also, Pepón Osorio's Badge of Honor and Organically Grown works, Tues.-Sun. thru 6/1. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

When the World Was Green

"(A Chef's Fable)," collaboration between Sam Shepard and Joseph Chaikin. Wed.-Sun. thru 5/11, call for times. Tonight at 8:30pm. \$17-21. Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-8822.

Womentalk

Discussion of women's survival tactics in performance art: Elia Arce, Rhodessa Jones, Miriam Kronberg, Susan Miller, free. 7pm. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Thur

Dalliance

Shotgun Players present Tom Stoppard's adaptation of Arthur Schnitzler's play *Liebelei*. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, thru 5/31. \$8-10. La Val's

Subterranean Theater, 1834 Euclid, Berkeley. (510) 716-9082.

Fotos Verboten!

Exhibition of homoerotic photographs by Greg Day, thru 5/20. Blow Buddies, 933 Harrison.

Joe Goode

Performance Group
Dance theatre, includes *Four Feelings, Everybody Leaves* from "The Maverick Strain." 5/8-10, 16-18 at 8pm. \$20. Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason. 392-4400.

The Lonely Planet

Absurdist comedy about friendship and fear in age of AIDS. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 5/17. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Night of the Hunter

"In Pursuit of the Hirsute," photos & sculpture by Chris Komater. Thurs.-Sat. 12-6pm thru 5/31. 509 Cultural Center, 509 Ellis. 255-5971.

Praise and Punishment Show

Fratelli Bologna in evening of competitive improv. Thurs. at 8pm thru 5/29. \$10. Bayfront Theatre, Bldg. B, Fort Mason. 285-4328.

Shear Madness

Whodunit set in unisex hair-styling salon opens. Tues.-Sun., call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$28-32. Mason Street Theatre, 430 Mason. 982-5463.

Strip! Bare-ly Legal

Interactive theatre experience set at a male strip club. Thurs.-Sun., call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$30-40. Rocco Showplace, 165 10th St. 982-4400.

Vibe

DJ Jon Bush spins deep acid trance. 21+. \$3. 10pm-2am. Stud, 9th & Harrison.

WANNA SUBMIT?

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Grilled Pork Chops with pineapple sweet & sour sauce, vegetable and chef's rice or potatoes.....\$9.50

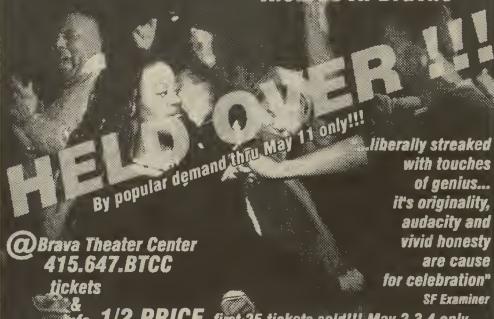
Chicken-Fried Steak or Grandma's Meatloaf with vegetable, mashed potatoes and gravy.....\$7.95

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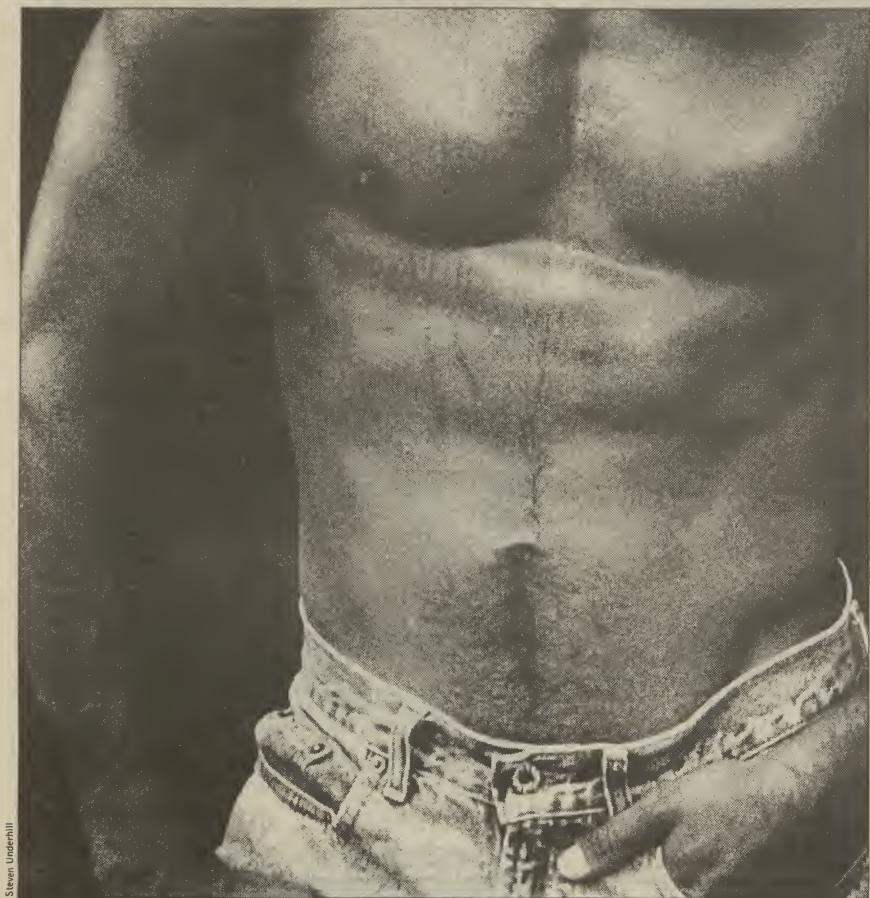
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PARTING GLANCES

Porn Flix At Castro Theater
Fri. 4/4. You: mega-furry bearded Dad, sitting next to me, brown beard, glasses. You left early. Call for complete oral worship and more. 3-way OK, too. ☎ 5801.

Hance!!!
Remember how you sat on my lap, cuddled and kissed me at that Monday night (March 24, 97 in San Jose). Can I see you again? Crazy about you! ☎ 5802.

Muni M Line April 2
I got onto the train, you gave your seat to a woman. You: orange long sleeve shirt, jeans. Me: blue plaid pants & black shirt. Muni was slow, got off at Castro. Smoke was in the station. Would like to meet you. Call. ☎ 5803.

Bearded Cigar Smoker In Castro
We passed each other, cruised, but I couldn't stop. Me: tall, handsome, bearded, buzz cut. Let's meet and enjoy a nice big stogie together. ☎ 5804.

Peninsula Y
Hey blue and silver Chevy Blazer, Jeep Grand Cherokee is interested in you. ☎ 5805.

Fantasy Guy Please Call Back
You runner wanted massage. You called my pager twice unable to call back. You sound interesting would love to worship you body, stretch your legs, massage first & see what happens. ☎ 5806.

Sun 4/6 Market 7 Church, ATM
You: red sweater w/white strip, jeans & B-ball cap. Me: short brn hair, blue jacket, sunglasses, returning movie, riding in convertible. About 4:30P. Would love to meet. Coffee? Beer? ☎ 5807.

Phantom Of The Opera Tues. 4/8
After the show you gave me two thumbs up. Tried to find you outside. Really wish we'd talked. Please call. ☎ 5901.

Pasta Pomodoro 4/3 6ish
You sitting by window I was walking by. You were extremely handsome and wearing blue T-shirt. Me: USC hat. Would like to meet you. ☎ 5902.

4/12 Len From San Jose & Virginia
You were looking 4 places to live in Guerneville. Came into the park I manage in Ford Explorer. Gave you my card. Willing to travel to see you again, can't get you off my mind. ☎ 5903.

4/3 Van Ness/California
You: blond, well dressed, walking towards Polk. Me: tall, brown hair, multi-colored sweater, blue pants, boarding #1 Cal. We waved good-bye. Wanna meet? ☎ 5904.

Match At The Symphony Wed 4/9
You're with a non-profit land preservation agency. We visited at Orchestra Left before the concert at Davies Symphony Hall. Please call. Want to add a postscript to our conversation. ☎ 5905.

Carta Sun 4/20
Me: must, GBM, yellow shirt, w/white friend. You: GWM, blue shirt, dark sports coat. We glanced at each other as you left. How about dinner? ☎ 6001.

ExtrABBAganza Sat 4/19
Balcony, sec. 5, row C. Sat next to you. Kicked about the headress and seeing you at the next concert. Let's make it sooner. I'd like to get acquainted. John. ☎ 6002.

Same Baggage-Different Colors
Detour 4/20. I'm still waiting for your last question. I'm working with friend Art—Remember where? Stop by or call here. Discrete. ☎ 6004.

Mack Sat 4/19
You: red shirt, black leather vest, full beard, great hairy chest. We talked out on the top deck, too crowded/busy inside, we both wanted equality one-on-one time together. Let's do it. ☎ 6003.

Ian In The Rain, Fri 4/18
You: jeans, T-shirt, nice tats. Hiding from rain at auto garage. Me: jeans, leather jkt, B-ball cap. We in leather shop at Sanchez, let's do coffee & talk. Date? ☎ 6005.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Levi & Motorcycle Jackets
I like levi's & motorcycle jackets & kicking back but I've grown up on fine wines & guys in tuxes. Be 25-40, HIV-, & liking fun times. I'm 6'1", 210#, 34yo. ☎ 5809.

GAM Seeks GWM
26, 5'8", 135#, slim, smooth, sincere, sensible, mellow, adventurous, independent, old fashioned normal guy seeks similar GWM, 23-33, for friend/LTR. ☎ 5905.

Italian Seeks WASP
GWM, 5'10", 150#, ISO clean-cut, blue/green eyed, blond, 28-40, 5'10"+ for friend/relationship. Interest include, running, gardening, hiking, cooking, movies, & modern rock. ☎ 5811.

Sex Slave—Companion
GWM, 53, 5'7", 140#, masculine top, NS, HIV-, safe and sane. You: need to feel owned, fuck, suck, spanked, HIV-, NS, between 25-40. ☎ 5814.

Same Baggage-Different Colors
Detour 4/20. I'm still waiting for your last question. I'm working with friend Art—Remember where? Stop by or call here. Discrete. ☎ 6004.

Damn Gdliking New GWM in SF!
ISO very handsome, masc., vers., GWM (HIV-, 20-33) for sex and friendship. 27, 5'8", smooth hot body, smart, tasteful, great in bed. Gimme some juicy bus soon! Be first! ☎ 5812.

GWM 30yo 6'3" 195# Br/Br HIV-
I enjoy biking, crosswords, star gazing, cooking, beach combing, Sunday papers, jazz, and road trips. Looking for a small framed, HIV-, down to earth, guy in his 30's or 40's. ☎ 5813.

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 31, 5'7", 150#, HIV-, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee looking for GWM for friendship or maybe more between 25-37 years old. Enjoy quality of life. Call me. ☎ 5815.

Want Something Different?
Me: German, 20, from the East Bay, neither stupid nor ugly, looks for young, non-fake, sophisticated friend to have fun & interesting talks with. Don't call, mail! ☎ 5816.

Attractive Asian From SJ
Filipino 29, 5'7", 145#. Seeking a masculine white male, ages of 25-37, for friendship, maybe more. Palo Alto-San Jose only. ☎ 5809.

Extremely Goodlooking Twosome
Wanted. I'm mulatto, 33, 5'11", 195, all muscle, and first half of twosome: you are second half, short, cute, boyish and wanting lots of mutual affection. (HIV+) ☎ 5817.

Handsome Muscular Italian
GWM, 38, 6'2", 185#, into fitness, travel, romance & quiet times seeks another HIV-, extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 5818.

Black Man Short Natural
Dreds, beard, HIV-, 40, 6'1", 170, seeks friends. Music teacher, masseur and gardener. NS/ND/No drugs. Vegetarian. Into occult & spiritual practices & very simple living. I live in the mountains of Mendocino county. I visit Bay area often, not looking for sex buddy. ☎ 5918.

Not Gen-X/Not a Boomer Just 33
Iately it has been 26 yr old or 40 something. Want to connect w/guys my age. me: GWM, 33, 5'7", 150, in shape, attractive. You: GWM, 31-35, in shape. ☎ 5819.

Special Thai Young Man Wanted
GWM, 45, brown, blue, mustache, 6', 170#, HIV+, looking for 20-35 yrs, masculine, passionate, affectionate Thai, and sex and LTR. I love Thailand. Let's meet. "Sawatdee Krap." ☎ 5820.

Handsome GWM 31, 6'3", 180#
Hazel eyes, shaved head, mustache, gardener, musician, varied interests seek similar GWM, 30/39, emotionally stable, fun, slim-med build, relationship minded. No Nancy boys, recovery queens, gym freaks please. ☎ 5821.

Smooth Blond Seeks Partner
East Bay, 42 yrs, strawberry blond, goodlooking, HIV-, musc, sexy body, seeks a loving partner, let's set up a date! ☎ 5822.

HIV+ Mustache Top Wanted!
Tickle my fancy! Concord area bottom, HIV+, 35, 6', 190, hairy, brown, blue, seeks local guy, 35-50ish. I love 'em big and bushy—Think Village People. ☎ 5823.

Seeking Macho Men
Goodlooking GWM, 40, 6ft., 187 lbs, and HIV+, seeks goodlooking macho men for good times, and more. I have dark hair, mustache, blue eyes & smooth body. Tattoos a plus. Men 25-40 give me a call. NS/ND, light drinker. ☎ 5906.

Chinese/Japanese Man Sought By
German GWM, 45, 5'9", 155#, HIV-, blue eyes. I like the outdoors, tennis, gym, concerts, books, travel, romantic dinners and lots of culling. You too? I'd love to meet you. ☎ 5907.

Backpacker Rockhound
6'5", Irish German Daddy extends helping hand to boy who enjoys indoor and outdoor activities. Good to be considerate, honest, student, slim, smooth, cute, Latin, Asian. ☎ 5908.

Attractive Latino 26 HIV+
I'm 5'7", 165#, muscular, clean cut, student. Into natural sex, movies, and traveling. Seeking Latinos or whites under 35. Prefer NS and broad minded. ☎ 5909.

Not For Sex Ad
GAM, 5'7", 150 lbs, 31 yo, sincere, caring prof. enjoys traveling, design, culture ISO prof. GM, 30-45, prefer GWM must be honest. Giving goal oriented, secure, confident. For positive life partnership. ☎ 5910.

Cuddle Me Elmo
Hairy, heavy white bear, 37. Work swing, live in Mission, love books, Trek, writing, zines. Seek toppish literary Latino (fit, hung) for non-analytical body/mind passion. ☎ 5911.

Slim Gdliking Hip Retired Guy
Mustache, crewcut, 5'9", 150#, in good shape, versatile, HIV-, seeks similar, 50+, fair hair guy. Short, small dick OK. Smoke OK. Sale only! ☎ 5912.

Sexual Healing
GBM, top, prof, 40+, ISO GWM bottom, 50 yrs or above who's physically & emotionally available to pursue a LTR. I'm a lite smoker & drinker. You must be medium to stoutly. ☎ 5913.

Mostly Top 4 Mostly Bottom
GWM, mid-40's, HIV+, yang seeking yin for regular long, slow, passionate, sensual evenings/nights together leading to possible LTR. Into swimming, biking, camping, walks, movies, videos, theater. Great cock. Let's meet. ☎ 5914.

Southern Gentleman
44 yr old, easy-going, white Southern gentleman, new to SF. 5'11", 175 lbs, brn eyes, balding, hairy with average dad-type looks seeks LTR with smooth, slender top 35 & under. Enjoy theater, movies, dining out. ☎ 5915.

Someone To Wake Up To
Easy-going, independent AM, 30, 5'6", 165#, looking to meet men, 25-35, for dating leading to monogamous romance. Likes: tennis, long walks, short stories, hanging out w/friends, quiet evenings home. ☎ 5916.

Needed 1 Prince Charming
GWM, 6'5", blu/blnd, 40, seeks African American Prince for romance, movies, music, more. Must be sweet & sincere and looking for same! ☎ 5917.

Master & Biker?
Young man seeks guidance, training, companionship and love. I offer myself, complete loyalty. Obedience and affection. Sex positive, leather biker oriented. Masculine, hairy preferred. Please no clean-cut guys. Thank you. ☎ 5919.

Complete Package
East Bay GWM, 51, blond/blue, beard, ISO compatible mate to share garden home and lifestyle. Versatile top, hung, HIV+, prefers Mediterranean submissive mature versatile/bottom. ☎ 5920.

Uncut Latin Plus Love Fingers
My long delicious, foreskin, hung, fat, juicy dick wants dedicated oralist. I have hungry long tongue for big hairy ass and love fingers for you HIV-. ☎ 5921.

New To SF, Seeking GAM or GHM
GWM, 40, 170, 5'10", masculine, handsome, adventurous, unpretentious. Into travel, outdoors, film. Seeking monogamous relationship or friendship. Bi 30+, smart. Am HIV+, asymptotic, working, healthy. Your status irrelevant. ☎ 5922.

Broker/Banker/Candlestick Maker
Bl/bl, 5'9", 160, 42 ch/30 w, boyishly cute WASP, diverse, (Faust to football), traveled, mate, top drawer. Seeks GWM executive-type, 35-45, handsome, fit, genuine, masculine, DDF. For dating/LTR serious only. ☎ 6006.

Suit Tie Kind-of-Guy
PGWM, 43, 5'9", 168#, br;br, attractive HIV+, athletic, outgoing, lots of interests, seeks LTR with man, 35-50, who has a life. ☎ 6007.

Ken Doll Craves Teddy Bear
Healthy Poz babe seeks sweet bear top to play with and cherish. UB a honey, over 40, in SF and into a doll of your own. (Call now!) ☎ 6008.

Intelligent, Adventurous GWM
Me: 31, 5'9", 160, fit, into travel, cooking, reading, photography, foreign films. You: attractive and intelligent GWM or GLM, under 30, interested in friendship and possible romance. ☎ 6009.

Kinky Romantic
38 year old HIV+, bottom/versatile, into heavy leather & rubber. Into many forms of kink. Also into affection, cuddling, and romance. Seeking HIV+, top/versatile, 30's to 40's. Into the same things. Let's explore kinky and romantic sides. ☎ 6010.

Hot Man
Seeks sizzling boy. WM, 5'11", 165#, wants LTR with Asian, Latino, 25-35, short, slim, must speak fluent English. Dinners, movies, dancing, travel, like cats, 60-70's music. NS/ND, light drinker OK. ☎ 6011.

Romantically Inclined
Attractive GWM, 40's, 5'10", 165#, HIV+, seeking quality times with cute, boyish Asian men, 30-40's. Enjoy quiet intimate times. I'm affectionate, romantic, sexually versatile. ☎ 6012.

I Could Write A Book!
Tired of phony California attitude? HIV+, 5'11", 140 lbs, mustache, sense of humor, good heart, spiritual. Health & mind getting better. Seeks friends or???? Please be sincere!!! ☎ 6013.

Are You The One
Who can unleash my hidden desires? GWM, 33, 5'10", 167, br;br, seeks attractive, romantic, GLM that has the key to unlocking the hidden desires within me! Are you the one? ☎ 6014.

GWM, 35, 6'7", 195#, Healthy HIV+
Crewcut, stache, bottomish. Into landscaping, Southern-style cooking, guitar, dating. Looking for GWM, 35-45, topless. Not necessarily my height, but ht/wt proportionate. No leather queens & tweakers. Facial hair a plus. ☎ 6015.

Spanish French Gays
Seeking to make real friends, meet my friends as well in San Francisco. Little or no English OK. Ages 25-40. Kindly call. ☎ 6016.

To Avoid my Fucking Problem
I suck you off first, thus getting to savor and swallow your full load. Then you're welcome to fuck away, shooting your remnant where who can tell what little left. ☎ 6017.

Explore The Limits??
Attractive, GWM, 35, 6', 150#, uncut, blue eyes, blonde hair, well educated, "quasi-professional" ISO fun, adventurous men, 30-40. ND/NS/No prozac. I'm mostly top, but will explore. S 6018.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Cock Feeders Wanted
North Bay areas. Divorced white male training to suck hot men. Learning to love cum. Obsessed by big cocks; 2 or more OK. Have wheels. my mouth is your pleasure, sir! ☎ 5824.

Bi White Muscle Sks Same Black
Built, muscled, meaty, hard body dude, 6'195, 40, seeks other str8, macho, built or meaty Black/Latino dude, 18-50, into str8-x videos. ☎ 5825.

Handsome HIV+ Regular Guy
Goodlooking, smooth, cin-shvn, tight body, hung, seeks similar regular guys, 30's, oral, top, 1 bondage. Fun & games. ☎ 5826.

Well Built Sks Well Hung
Handsome, masculine & very muscular BW w/banded & buffed physique, mid 30's, dark hair, sks in shape, hugely endowed men to worship hard muscle & big dick. You are 9'4", masculine. ☎ 5827.

Fantasy Oriented
New to SF, attractive, discreet PWM 36, wants to meet other professionals for very private rendezvous'. Have place. Clean, safe, fun and mutual pleasures. HIV-. ☎ 5828.

Wanna Sixty-Nine?
I'm 30, bi-racial/light skin, 5'11", 190#, muscular gym toned body, and very attractive and hope to meet truly attractive young men who love to hook for a fucking frenzy and closeness. ☎ 5829.

ISO Slave Boys
Club boys < 25 wanted by muscular v. handsome GWM, 70+, be slender and ready for abuse. ☎ 5830.

Service For Hung Males
Bik male, 6'1", 190 lbs. hung, clean shaven, muscular, masculine. Will service other hung males, 18-45. Uncut a plus. Other things possible. Bi, straight OK. ☎ 5831.

X-JW Open 40 GWM 6'3" Bttm
195. RWC attractive man HIV+, smoker, seeks: well hung, 7" or thick, top xpert, honest loving passionate, who will do anything to drive me to sexual heights, be sincere. Steady open relationship. ☎ 5832.

Hungry White Ass 4 Yr Pleasure
Mature muscular ass who enjoys fucking smaller guys. GWM, 5'3", 130 lbs, shaved head, goatee, healthy, HIV+, seeks men who love to use tits & ass. ☎ 5833.

I'm Yng Single Gdliking & In/Need
33yo, bottom boy, smooth, masculine, into adventure good sex like to party try new things with gdliking hung tops, If we fit let's do it often. ☎ 5834.

Palo Alto 38 Asian Cockslucker
Seeks white guys to suck off. Prefer day time (8AM-3PM). 6'+" and beyond. Have car will travel. ☎ 5835.

Daytime Action
Stop by hotel room—drop by & drop your pants. Casual oral sex—quickies. Shoot your load all over me. Tell me what you want! ☎ 5836.

Regular Sex Buddy
This very cute African American, 26, 5'6", 160#, sk HIV-, single only guys of all ethnic backgrounds. 23-36 only. Be a top that enjoys being serviced. Honest & intelligent responses only! ☎ 5837.

Tall Hung Bareback Top
Lean, athletic Daddy, big dick, vers., likes to eat ass & fuck. You: over 45, masc, in shape. Hung A+. ☎ 5838.

Free Snowboard Trips To Tahoes
Finest resort for attractive Asian male snowboarder, 18-25. Be thin, smooth & mid-intermediate or better on the slopes. Good fun guaranteed. Call before the season turns to slush. ☎ 5839.

Romantic Bottom?
I'm average looking, 5'9", 135, 40, top, 8", easy going, interesting, looking for average looking, friendly bottom, any race, weight prop. to height, for barbsk sex, friendship, maybe LTR. ☎ 5840.

Looking For Take-Charge Raunch
Top. I'm 44, 6'4", Brown hair, blue eyes. Into fantasy trips. Hairy a plus. ☎ 5841.

Just Shut-up And Ride
WM, 30, 5'10", 195#, blond/blue eyed, muscled hunk wants goodlooking & masculine men to pump me full of squirt—anytime! ☎ 5842.

To Savor/Swallow Your Load(s)
Is my reward for sucking you off good. Uncut great; hard all we need. I'm a size queen for loads, not dicks. Load wise, less ain't more—only more is more! ☎ 5923.

Krakatoa? Vesuvius? Mt St Helen?
Mega-eruptions are an awesome sight! Shoot your personal best after incredible oral service from the local volcano maker. Specs: GWM/bottomless throat/6'170/40s/goatee/hair-challenged/smart and nice too. Leave your lava here. ☎ 5924.

19 YO Blond Bottom
Soccer player, great legs & ass, cute face, cute smooth freckled body, ISO older 35-55 Macho Muscle Dudes. Gang bang? Call me. ☎ 5925.

Older Seeks Younger Skinny Boys
Me: smooth, 6'2", 260, GWM, lean & clean. You dig getting big loads sucked off and are ticklish kid boy. Me: same seeking playmates. ☎ 5926.

Special Person Seeks Same
For ongoing sexuality intimate times. I'm 73, 5'7", 165#, and you are 18-40, who prefers being with an atr. more mature romantic man. ☎ 5927.

Submissive Boy Will Serve You!
Seeking dominant stud to use me for your pleasure. Love to be face fucked and forced to service you. Love leather & uniforms. Blacks, Latinos & Italians are a plus. ☎ 5849.

Hole Seeks Pole
GWM, 29, 5'9", 180#, bln/blu, submissive bottom needs top to eat & plow my hairy bubble butt. I love to suck cock. Your place, we bot HIV-. ☎ 5829.

Serious Bareback Fuckers
If you want a hot, juicy & wet cum fuck w/a well fucked ass. 1 on 1 or grps...GBM, 59, 5'11", 146#, goatee, shaved head. Skt. men ht/wt prop. masc & seriously only. Call now. ☎ 5930.

Lay Back And Enjoy
Attractive GWM, 40s, HIV-, 5'10", 165#, seeks GWM, 50 to 65, lay back and have love mad to his big dick, 7 1/2" to 9", for hours. The best you will ever have! ☎ 5931.

Playful Fun And Games!
Handsome Asian bodybuilder w/de fined muscular physique, smooth skin needs export mouth, responsive ass 4 his pleasure. Want to get tied up & used sensuously, mercilessly? Open to other game ideas! You: adventurous, eager, and cute. ☎ 5932.

Love Dominant Tops
GWM, 41, 6', 165#, seeks men any race, age & size for sex, especially long time fucking. Yours for pleasure. ☎ 5933.

East Bay 54 YO Lkng For A Daddy
This 54 yr old is looking for a older Daddy. I'm 5'8", 160#, brn hair, blue eyes w/7" dick. Wants to be in your arms tonight. ☎ 5934.

GBM ISO WM 35+ To Service
Attractive GBM, 40's, East Bay seeks WM, gay, straight, private, out door seeks you. You: 30s, HIV-, 5'10", 165#, brn hair, blue eyes w/7" dick. Wants to be in your arms tonight. ☎ 5935.

Your Dick In My Mouth No Teeth
No scraping, nothing sharp. Just a smooth throat for your pleasure (and mine) way cool clean & healthy GWM, masc seeks same. Size isn't important. ☎ 5936.

A Few Of You...
Seek buddy(ies) who like to play everything but games. Hot sex, hot playful fit man. Hot tubs, hot men, hot sun. Wattasay. Hot buns (+). ☎ 5937.

ISO: A Beautiful Drag Queen
Two, well-mannered 7 handsome men (31 & 43) looking for a beautiful & sophisticated drag queen to take out on the town. ☎ 5938.

Seeking Flogger
Seeking friendly playmate who likes to role-play and administer light to moderate flogging. ☎ 5939.

I Want Sex
Anonymous, oral, masculine, hung, body odor. ☎ 6033.

Frat Muscles/Jocks/18-222 Yeah?
Str8/curious, masc, bi/gay WMs party now! 1st time welcome, explore fantasies! ☎ 6028.

Still Looking For The Right Man
Soccer player, great legs & ass, cute face, cute smooth freckled body, ISO older 35-55 Macho Muscle Dudes. Gang bang? Call me. ☎ 5925.

Cigarette Smokers!
Black, 6'3"-6'6", 30ys+, height/weight proportionate, aggressive, dominant top. Looking for an experienced, experienced Latin bottom boy? I'm 5'6", 135#, young looking 40+. Into BD, very verbal. No SM. ☎ 5940.

Bearded Dad Seeks Playmate

GWM, 60, 5'9", 150#, HIV-, white beard, black boots, seeks masculine GWM, GLM, GBM, 35-50, for touching, stroking. Short guys & facial hair a plus. ☎ 5841.

Let's Do It

Busy GWM bottom, 32, wants hot older man, 40-55 for steamy boning sessions. NS pref. (OK if) No drugs/subst. abuse. Want to hear from you soon! ☎ 5850.

Only Seniors

Cute GWM, 50ish, needs complete service. From sucking my 7" cock, to CBT, FF, spanking, fucking my hairy little ass, sucking your big cock. You pick one or all three. I will also do. "Sorry no dildos." ☎ 5851.

2 Blond Capped Crusaders Seek

Under the covers action. One large handgun and one tight holster looking for a shoot-out with similar equipment. ☎ 6019.

Hot Nasty Boys Only

4 long intense fuck sessions. UB 25-37 up. GWM/GLM, good shape, clean shaven face, like get'n it! ME: 40yo, top, good shape, 5'6", 145#, hot sex! ☎ 6020.

On Your Knees, Suck Boy

WM, 40's, HIV-, average build verbal needs regular obedient head at your SF place. You are HIV-, healthy, slim, or muscular, hungry deep throat, cum lover into taking orders. ☎ 6021.

Mature Submissive Sks Younger

WM, 50, 6', 190, submissive, seeks younger, hairy, pref. balding/buzzed, HIV+, who enjoys the company of an older man. Seek connection/dating. ☎ 6022.

Cock Sucker 40-60

Cum suck our big dicks: hot couple, GWM, 40ish, wants masculine GWMs over 40. We're HIV-, non-smokers, UB2. Love men with thick bushes, stashes, to suck too. ☎ 6023.

Sex In The Sun

HIV+, attractive, sexy, masculine, 30's. Seeking sunny, private, outdoor area to heat up and have uninhibited sex. Weekdays only. Age, ethnicity, county, unimportant. Serious only please. Pool a plus. ☎ 6024.

Weekday Play

Attractive, HIV+, 30's, tall, really into tit play, role playing, JO, games. You are 35-50, fun, imaginative. Decent shape, drug free. Tell me your daytime fantasy. ☎ 6025.

A1 Oral Service Delivered

SFC/GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to guys who dig getting sucking off. Prefer trim, mature, no reciprocation. ☎ 6026.

Beautiful Cock

Seeks Asian admirer. GWM, 35, 6'2", 165, fit, youthful, energetic, aggressive, playful, top. Be slim, cute, smooth, eager to please. I will teach you. ☎ 6027.

Golden Showers Specialist

Black stud will piss all over you. ☎ 5943.

River Area Top For Lthr Play

Submissive fit GWM familiar w/lthr scenes. HIV- seeks safe sadistic training & more by aggressive rough master, uncut built black studs A+. ☎ 6042.

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

Masculine Bottom Seeks Top
GWM, 30, 6', 195#, muscular, brown hair/eyes, HIV+, seeks butch top, under 40, with big dick for heavy & hard fucking, muscle Dad welcome. Race unimportant. ☎ 6029.

UR Masc
50+, fit body, short hair, stash, goatee, or shaved. Not a twerk, but into raunch heavily and be versatile. Red hair, cops, guards, fireman A+++. I fit the same criteria in the ad & I'm also HIV-. I'm very hot, so no dogs please. ☎ 5852.

Hot Guy W/Tee Ring Sks Buddo
Masculine, tan, goodlooking East Bay GWM, 5'8", 140#. HIV- craves reciprocal foot licking, smelling, caressing, massaging, naked body closeness, safe JO, fantasies. Light odor, toughened soles OK. Further friendship possible. ☎ 5853.

FF Pig Btm Can't Get Enough
Hungry hole seeks hairy macs top fist into long hot sessions. WS, leather, tattoos, piercings A+. Serious, exp. tops only! Groups & 3-ways. ☎ 5843.

Hunk Dog Sought
Very well-built butch boy seeks handsome, masculine, hot top Dad for sweaty sessions and more. Seeking HIV-. I am, butch, muscled, great-looking Dad. Am eager to please and learn. ☎ 6032.

Afternoon Bottom Wanted
I want to look, touch, massage, tickle, probe, spank and screw your butt. Me: attrac, GWM, 47, 6'5", 250#, husky build, brown hair, mustache, hairy chest, stomach. You: attrac, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth/moderate body hair. ☎ 6034.

Ride On My Bushy Mustache

And feel my long tongue up your hot butt. Me: 6', 165#, brn/blu, 37. You: hot and ready. ☎ 6035.

Jockstrapped Facetsitter

5'10", 160, very nice dick & balls, works out, but butt, 41, into squatting on a guy's face. You: long tongue, eager, in shape, under 35. ☎ 6036.

Chubby/Over-Weight Top?

Small/medium hung? Like to work on submissive mature GWM, demonstrating your top form? Expert, tender-but-master? HIV- anise for HIV- playmate. Don't hesitate—call! ☎ 6037.

Love Dominant Tops

GWM/bottom seek men any race and age for sex, especially long time fucking your pleasure. ☎ 6038.

Over 50 WM Gum Job Wanted

WM, 44, 5'10", 165#, br/b, med blid, smoker, HIV-, 7X5 1/2 cut cockringed meat, kicks back for endurance deep throater. I will come to your service only. Be hungry. ☎ 6039.

Endowed And Proud?

Would you like an enthusiastic bottom admirer to help you honor and satisfy it? I'm 31, fit, GWM, 52, we are both HIV-, and you are any race and ready. ☎ 6040.

Hot Leather Bear FF Top

GWM, 38, 6'3", beard/hairy, large hands, safe/sane, friendly & patient. Gives great massage inside 7 outside, your place SF or my playroom SJ 3 ways, groups OK. Serious only. ☎ 6041.

2 Horny & Hot Guys Desire...

Big Cock, tight butt, deep throat. 2 of 3 gets you 2 hot blonds with a full menu of delights. 20-40 yo. ☎ 6042.

Golden Shower Specialist

Black stud will piss all over you. ☎ 5943.

Hot Tits In Seattle

Goodlooking GWM couple. Two bears top & bottom into hot man sex & heavy tit work for men over 40. Give a growl if coming up. Hairy big chested A+. ☎ 6045.

Your Hand And Strap

Applied to my bare bottom is what I deserve. GWM, 40s, seeks strict Dad to take off my pants haul me across his knee and spank me long and hard. ☎ 6052.

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is WEDNESDAY at 5 PM, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

If You're A Macho Man With A Mustache and a van then suck my fat cock in the back of it. ☎ 6046.

Nasty Slut Cunt
Submits to str8 redneck fuckers. Spit on, piss on/in mouth VA humil. You and buddies gang bang hungry nymph cunt. The bitch. ☎ 6047.

Nipples
Handsome young looking 50 year old, HIV+ (healthy), seeks nipples for hours of mutual play. other forms of play OK, but nipples are a must. HIV+ persons preferred but all considered. ☎ 6048.

Experienced Leather Bottom
Seeks experienced master for bondage and S&M. I am 39, 5'11", 190, muscular, good build/looks, safe sex oriented. no Drunks/drunks. ☎ 6049.

Tit Pig Needs Udder Hard
Hot looking pig, shaved head, funky goatee, 38/55/6", big sow nipples steady tit work. Me: clamps, weights, vacuum, video cam: you: facial hair, sick imagination, very hot verbal guy. Make 'em huge! ☎ 6050.

ISO Preppie Yuppie Types
GM, 38, 6', 150, brd & hrs. I'm looking for young preppie/yuppie types who want to just kick back while I give them oral pleasure all over. ☎ 6051.

Rim Chair Service
Your hole must protrude & have lots of lip on it. You: in shape, hot, 21-45. Me: very attractive, masc, hot, great tongue, 5'11", 40, 165#. ☎ 5845.

Feet Dark Socks And More

Goodlooking Latino, 30, 5'11", 190, dark features, HIV-, Virgo, size 12, NS/ND, would like to meet Latinos or whites under 32 into foot fetish. Serious. Seriously only. No lies. ☎ 5846.

Fetish Dark Socks And More

Goodlooking cigar smoker, bearded, masculine, 37, 6'4", 180, seeking top or versatile, masculine cigar smokers with facial hair. I enjoy all forms of sex from vanilla to heavy kink. ☎ 5847.

ISO Hard Beer Gut To Play With
Me: 5'10", 155, 43, hot/hairy GWM: You: GWM, clean, all weight in belly, no softies or raunch pigs. Big navv A++. Proud of your gut & shows. Lick you all over. ☎ 5848.

Dominate Man, 35

Seeking part-time house slave, age/looks unimportant, willingness to clean & service is, must be masculine & submissive. ☎ 5942.

Pull Down Yr Pants/Shorts & JO

Unbutton your belt. Open your fly. Boner in your underwear. Boner in your underwear? Attr. GWM, 40s, likes dropping my pant w/other men (in jeans, khakis, suits, uniforms) for mutual JO. ☎ 5944.

Mummification

At Leathernicks I saw a bottom have vacuum cylinders put on his nipples and dick. He was then mummified and I fantasize about having this done to me. ☎ 5945.

Garter Belt & Stockings

GWM, 40, 165#, bottom novice, looking for dominant bear top, safe play only. ☎ 5946.

Hang Out With A Hard-On?

GWMs seeks guys for hot, creative, exhibitionistic JO. We like to meet at different, sleazy locations around the city. Come on and walk around with us. ☎ 6043.

Hot Tits In Seattle

Goodlooking GWM couple. Two bears top & bottom into hot man sex & heavy tit work for men over 40. Give a growl if coming up. Hairy big chested A+. ☎ 6045.

Music, Opera, Ballet, Queens

Looking for other GM for listening, learning, conversation; good food, good wine, good times. Call me for details. ☎ 5856.

Tarzan Wrestling!

6', 180#, Tarzan seeks friendly guys to wrestle. Creative technique. Nobody gets hurt. Both guys win. Friendly muscular guy, fun to wrestle with. my mat or nude beach. Scared? I'll let ya win. ☎ 5950.

Latex Sex

Safe sex is hot sex. Remember to always use a condom. ☎ SAFE

If You're A Macho Man With A Mustache and a van then suck my fat cock in the back of it. ☎ 6046.

Nasty Slut Cunt
Submits to str8 redneck fuckers. Spit on, piss on/in mouth VA humil. You and buddies gang bang hungry nymph cunt. The bitch. ☎ 6047.

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ISO Preppie Yuppie Types
GM, 38, 6', 150, brd & hrs. I'm looking for young preppie/yuppie types who want to just kick back while I give them oral pleasure all over. ☎ 6051.

Coupling

Cum Upload On My Face
Tow loads are better than one. Mature, straight WM has fantasy of licking you shaft, sucking your balls as you take turns jerking off on my face. ☎ 5854.

Open My Partner Up
Hot couple, 36/43 positive. New to SF from NJ. Into kinky action. FF, toys, bondage, rimming, etc. Be 35-50, goodlooking, good shape. ☎ 5947.

Fill Me Up

GWM, 50, oral-anal bottom seeks a secure couple, 45+, HIV-. Am in great shape, 5'10", 175#. Race unimp. wt prop to ht. ☎ 5948.

Two Masters For One Boy

Two Masters want full-time boy for training, discipline and servitude. Boy must be open, honest, and desire to please in every aspect in safe, secure, leather home. Apply now. ☎ 6053.

OTHER

Modern Computer Games

Would like to meet others to play command & conquer, war craft, heroes of might & magic. me: 40 yr old retired Marine. ☎ 5855.

<b

Thespian firestorm!

by Pithy Galore

Typically when May hits San Francisco, talent starts coming out of the woodwork, what with Gay Pride just around the corner and Daylight Savings Time giving us more of that precious daylight. The following is a brief round-up of some of the more incredible things that talented folks are bringing our way.

The month kicks off memorably with **Bionic Productions' Tangent**, an alternative comedy show on May 1 at Cafe du Nord at 2170 Market Street (at Church) at 7 p.m. The premiere of *Tangent* several weeks ago was a smashing success. The May 1 show will once again be hosted by **Sabrina Matthews** (Punchline, Just for Laughs Festival, *The Alex Bennett Show* on Live 105) and will include performances by **Christina Burns**, **Brigid Schwartz** (Women with Balls, Josie's) and **Kevin Kataoka** (Punchline, *Alex Bennett Show*).

Bionic Productions is dedicated to creating entertainment that subverts the dominant comedy paradigm. *Tangent* presents a style of comedy that relies on personal anecdotal humor instead of the joke-oriented, stereotype of comedy found on most mainstream stages and late-night television. For information about the show, please call 379-9121.

Bionic bunny

Surely one of the most spectacular events of this or any spring



The Lady Bunny

season is the appearance at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint of the glamorous **Lady Bunny**, drag diva to the stars and founder of the original Wigstock celebration in New York. Not one to trot out a tired re-tread, Bunny is bringing something new to town, her one-woman show *24 Carrot Lady*, a semi-autobiographical number that takes us from her humble beginnings in Chattanooga, Tennessee to her current position as New York's reigning drag diva.

Lady promises to blow us away with this show, which features the star's usual eye-popping wardrobe, show-stopping dance moves, and delectably naughty patter. According to our friends at Josie's, Bunny has left audiences howling with this show in places as far flung as Texas and Tokyo. Lady Bunny is pretty busy these days, so she's only going to be up for three nights. Don't miss *24 Carrot Lady*, May 4-6, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, at 10 p.m. Josie's is at 3583 16th St. Tickets are \$10. Call 861-7933 for tickets and information.

Lady Bunny will also be the special guest emcee for the

Lypsika Look-a-Like/Perform-A-Like Contest at Josie's on May 1 (Thursday). The event, a benefit for Project Open Hand, features celebrity judges **Wilkes Bashford**, **Jeanette Etheredge**, **Heklina**, and more. Tickets for this sure-to-sell-out event can be purchased in advance at City Box Office or BASS.

Chocolate mess

For something different, you might want to check out **Keith Hennessy's Palpitations**, a work written and performed by the infamous mudslinger choreographer/dancer. *Palpitations* is a performance re-mix of new and old texts, songs, dances and living images. The piece attempts an extreme close-up portrait of the gay heart in love, the gay heart in loss, and, finally, the gay heart in liberty. *Palpitations* features new electronic music by **Lars**, plus additional numbers by **Ani di Franco**.

Hennessy will revisit some of his previous works, including *Heat*, *Sacred Boy*, *Saliva*, and *The King is Dead*, as well as Contraband's *Mira Cycle One* and CORE's entertainment for the apocalypse.

Palpitations happens May 17, Wed.-Sat. at 8 p.m. at the New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. Tickets are \$16-\$20. Call 861-8972 for tickets and information.

Step lively

Further down the road is the internationally acclaimed dance troupe, **The Parsons Dance Company**, which comes to the Marines Memorial Theatre, May 13-25. The company, hailed by the *New York Times* as "sexy, exuberant, virtuosic movement," will give 14 performances of three exciting programs of works from its repertoire. Program A includes "Bachiana," "Union," "Rise & Fall," "Caught," and "Nascimento"; Program B includes "Ring Around the Rosie," a meditation of the Black Death and AIDS, "Destined," "Caught," and "Closure." Program C features "Scrutiny," "The Envelope," "The Almighty," "Caught," and "Mood Swing."

Performances run Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$13-\$15 and are available by calling 771-6900 or any BASS outlet. The Marines Memorial Theatre is at 609 Sutter Street. ▼

Doug Stevens

◀ page 56

Stevens feels like he's on the verge of something big. Of course, success may only come if the Outband is willing to make a few compromises. The singer relates that Atlantic Records had expressed interest in the Outband, but enthusiasm faded when a member of the band made it clear that the lyrics were never going "to go straight." Geffen Records has also expressed interest in the Outband, but Stevens isn't holding his breath.

Looking down the road, Stevens says he'll eventually take a behind-the-scenes role with the Outband, producing and writing when "the voice goes." In the meantime, he's pulling out all the stops, performing and composing like never before. In fact, the singer has become so busy since moving to San Francisco that he has almost no time left over for his other

great passion in life — dating men. That may not sound like a serious problem to some readers, but dating provides Stevens with his finest material. Like the best country crooners, Stevens has a productive history of turning heartbreak into beautiful music, imparting no small bit of infamy to his various ex-boyfriends in the process. But lest this revelation keep suitors from two-stepping with him, he declares that even "the really bad experiences are mostly fun. I try to write about the good stuff." Still, would-be lovers may want to know that one soon-to-be-notorious fella out there has three songs aimed at him on *From Christopher to Castro*. His loss is our gain. ▼

Doug Stevens and the Outband's albums are available at Borders Books and Records. Musicians interested in joining the band should call Doug at 928-6123.

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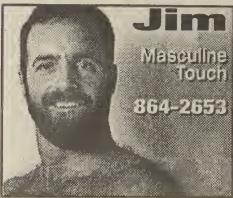
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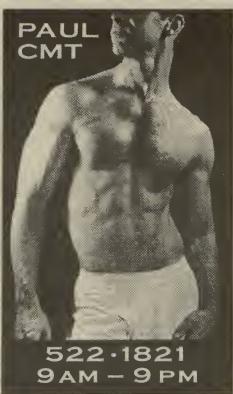
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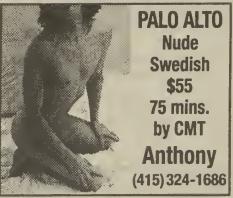
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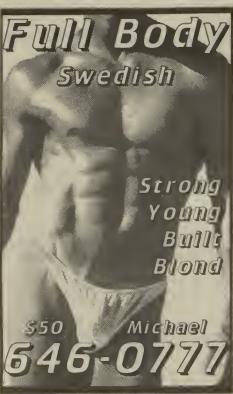
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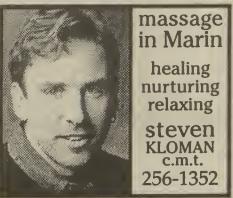
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PERSONALS

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Coming May 2, 3, 4, 1997 4 Bar
Beer Bust Sunday Noon-5PM
\$8 Good at Giraffe Kimo's
Rendezvous Reflections The
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A weekend retreat for gay men:
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Ready for a relationship? Try our new
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Gay men and lesbians invited.
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Sorry you didn't win any Golden
Dildeau Awards. Think of it this way
dear, THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT
YEAR!! and you WILL BE NOMI-
NATED next year!!!

E18

HIV + DATE LINE

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E21

Bare Assed Spanking
Experienced, Safe: 647-0984

E31

Butt bottoms wanted, experienced in
plugs, toys and hands. 752-0971

E52

WM gym bd 5'11, 8", nds WM w/big
cock hairy butt. 776-7472

E23

Need a J/D Buddy?

Join the biggest jackoff club in Calif.
For in-person or fone action, write
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90078. "Best Buddies" for men who
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E19

Hot Wax All Over YOU! 665-4825

E19

CONGRATULATIONS

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Leslie Anderson, Leathwoman 97
Jim Raymond, Leatherman 97
and to American Brotherhood
weekend in Washington, D.C.
April 25-27

E18

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IN THE NORTH BAY**

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[707] 522-5002

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E19

Horny stocky GWM gdg seeks hot sex
in 4-7PM range. 6'1", 250 lbs 50s,
very oral love to put it all in my mouth.
Fantasies WS porno ok, 3-k. Write
P.O. Box 31754 SF 94131. Let's get
nude when we meet and see what cum's
up! Any age race size. Love them all!

E21

Penis readings by Hermann. \$25/in.

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Reveals inner truth • 648-0604

E18

CONGRATULATIONS**TOM POWERS**

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E20

Great Cock Sucker • 285-8390

E21

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E18

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E19

For blow job Ted (510)849-2828 Berkeley

E19

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MEN**

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**24 Hours
\$2.00
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Times a Week**

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Comfortable and laid-back, you can play
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Parties 8pm-12M every Tue, Wed, Fri,
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Me: Pacific Hts. G.W.M., 40s, heavyset,
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offer your life interesting options.

Sex? Probably (so be very versatile &
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to offer than just \$\$). Generous re-
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than a bank account. Be sincere - I am.
Sorry, I call the shots on the generous
rewards. This ad wasn't cheap and nei-
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think they're "hot" properties need not
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schedule must be flexible. Interested?
Send a letter & photo to: Dr. G, 1592
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E19

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Keep the number -
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E23

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\$2 for 24 hrs

\$2.00 FOR 24 HOURS

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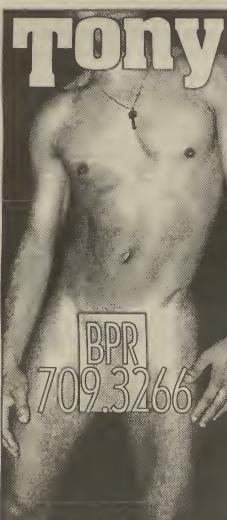
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PERSONALS

MODELS/ESCORTS



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Short, built, and handsome top man, expert in bondage and gradual pleasure/pain, tt, esp. CBT. Safe, discreet, trustworthy, and knowledgeable.
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Fingers to fists, all scenes there in Well-built, hairy, bearded, gym jock
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TRIM, TONED, THICK-TOP, TAME
Thong tan, smooth, cut, cute, 26,
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E18

408

247-8559

E21

MOTORCYCLE BOY

Tall, lean, sexy, fast bike
Wants to take you for a ride.

Page Jamie 415-998-6011 Page twice

HOT BUCK

8-1/2" Thick tool, low hngs, msclr
Stud, brown hair, blue eyes, hndsm
Face, 5'10", It chest hair, solid top,
Vers. \$75 75 min SF 415-629-0579

E18

YOUNG TOP LATINO

5'9", 165 lbs, evs, wkrds-Alex 923-9761

Very Cute, Boyish, Massage-Escort
Blond/Blue/Tanned/Smooth Body

HOT SENSUAL MASSAGE

Michael 11-11PM 905-4548 \$80/up

E25

TALL DARK & HANDSOME

26yo German boy, 6'3", 190

Friendly & Discreet

Grant • Pgr 605-4868 Out

E18

Serving the Entire Bay Area!

NICE SHORT GUY

NICE LONG TOOL

Imagine the possibilities!

KEVIN @ 415-253-6017

E19

CLIFF
8 x 6 • 25 yo
224 • 5384
very attractive • out only

remember may 11

super mom

Sensual Msg, Escort
Body/Foot Worship
Discount for 2 Clients
**346-7975 Kevin
Asian Dream**

Cute guy 5'5", 135#, nice chest & arms,
Small cute tight smooth bottom, Hung,
Older men welcome \$50 Donald 351-2034

E21

6'2" 180# 9" Lng Hrd Thick 273-1814

BLACK STUD

Young Fine Smooth Humpy Studboy

HOT PUP AT THE GYM
Dean: 20, 6', 165#, br/blue, clean-cut,
deep bottom, hard 8", steel ass

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Hot & Strong Beautiful Boy
Energetic & Fun-Very Special
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Tag Team Entertainment-2 guys
\$100 per hour. Concord Area Only!
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Hot mouth, Deep throat
Gdkng blo, 5'11", 160, 36, \$75
Available Evenings & Wkend

Pgr 496-0156

E19

IN: DNTN-UN. SQ/
OUT: I DRIVE

NO BULL! JUST A 10" TOOL.

RICK 560-7081

E18

21 Yr Old - 8 Inches Cut • Sensual

SEXY BLOND BOY TREAT

Energy, affection, fun! Do yourself a
Favor - Call Sebastian 440-3983

E18

10" X 6" CUT

German Italian, brown hair, brown eyes,
6', 185 lbs, tanned swimmer's build

Daniel, pgr 415-538-9587 Out only

E19

Booted Professional Dominant

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Fully equipped dungeon, safe & sane

All major credit cards 415-626-4319

E20

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6', 175lb, Rad Body

Masculine

Abel 979-7026 Pager

E18

REAL MAN

Tired of kids? Move up to a well

Hung, handsome, muscular stud who

Knows how. Pgr 207-6786

E18

HOT SEXY MUSCLE

Gives nude massage at your place

Warm friendly, tan Italian 5'8" 160#

PAGE TONY 210-0114

E18

IF YOU LIKE'EM HUNG
THEN I'M THE ONE!

Hot guy next door treats you right!
Br. Hair, Br. Eyes!
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Buddy \$85 (415) 861-7399

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EASY GOING TOPMAN. XXX VIDEOS
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Best Lay - Low Pay
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One of the Biggest and Best
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More than meets the eye...

NICK.
Pager 678-1153
\$120
HOT.
CLIFF pgr 270-4152
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ESCORTS**
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HUNG NASTY MUSC DAD

4 Nafty boy 10 \$35/50 pgr 707-944-6575

E20

LOVE TO KISS

Sexy eyes, hairy chest, buzzed head.
Enjoy the Irish passions of this

38 y/o man. Sean 709-0016

E18

Beautiful Buffed Big Boner Boy

SHORT & COMPACT

Warm, XXXsexy, 31, 5'6", 150#

Out only. Page 764-6940

E19

GOT MILK?

Superior oral from hot built stud.

Kick back and enjoy.

Page Christopher at 449-8007

E21

24HR BEAR CUB SLAVE

Submits to your pleasure 6'2" 210 lbs
Tim 232-1723, fantasies all nighters.

E18

ASIAN MAGIC

For soothin, relaxing touch call Alex

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The boy next door-Hot and cute

LEATHER BOY TOY

28yrs, 5'10", 145#, brown hair

Blue eyes, slim build, 7 thick

Inches and sweet personality

\$80/\$100/Out Andy 708-5388

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SLAVE FOR SALE

Masculine, great body, obedient.

BD, SM, Kink, young, hung boy

To serve you. In/Out 24hr

David 527-8124

E18

Into pecs? Check out mine. X-hung top

w/muscles & right attitude. 764-2880

E18

MUSCLE TOP

Hot Bodybuilder, 6'2", 200 lb, 28yo

Well hung, 17" A, 46" C, 32" W, very

Goodlooking (408) 788-7508 Christian

E19

EAST BAY - I KICK BACK

30, 6'2", 200#, brown/blue, 7.5, cleancut

Blue eyes, \$75, 510-595-0838, Austin

E18

WORLDWIDE TRAVEL COMPANIONS

meet you anywhere.

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E18

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19yo
goodlooking

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788.0380

9"
24 hrs, 24 hrs, 24 hrs
Dark blonde hair, hazel eyes
washboard stomach 27" waist
versatile Call anytime 837-8900
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• Super defined
w/ a beautiful ex
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• College athlete
• Hot top/bottom
• 10 uncut inches
• 5'11"-175lbs

**#1 BEST
MOST SCENES**
Big Ch - B.B. • 24 HOURS
PAGER
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HOT FRAT BOY
26, 5'10", 165, BR/BL, 10X6
Smooth, Cute, Ripped, Hot
BRETT PGR 739-9854
Blue Eyes, Brown Crewcut
TALL LEAN MASCULINE
6'2", 175#, Clean-cut/Shaven
Brian 415-263-1580 1-1PM
6'3", 200, 30 y/o, Hung boy, Br/Bl
HOT JR. EXEC.!!
Hung & Vers. 24Hrs 921-8607

ROUGH BLK TRADE
Wants 2 force U2 your knees. 2 consume
my 8" cut of thick blk manhood. 5'8",
170#, 30 yo, attract top muscle-stud
C42/W29/A16/Q25 No Drug/Rushed jobs
Domin expert 100 Robert 829-7595 out

SERIOUS MUSCLE

Real BB, Thick, Ripped

Handsome, Hung 9" • 337-4364

E18

26 y/o Latino Stud, bronze skin wants
to make your time, the best one!

IN/OUT ANDRIES! 415-527-6096

E18

My Muscle Butt Your Face 626-RIDE

E18

Well Hung Black Top (Out) 273-1814

E18

DOMINANT TOP EX-COP

5'10", 180, Smooth and Muscular

Bud 648-1762

E18

HUNG MUSCLE BOY

25yo, X-gdkng wa/fat 9 1/2" Tool

Smith well defined body Call 280-2736

E18

GOT MILK?

Superior oral from hot

Built stud, kick back and

Enjoy. Page Christopher

at 449-8007

E18

SUPER STUD

WHAT YOU WANTED ALL ALONG

Tall, Handsome, Hung, Friendly

Pgr 207-5315

E18

27yo Tall, Lean, Skinhead

KINK MERCENARY

Filthy, Demanding, 764-6627

E18

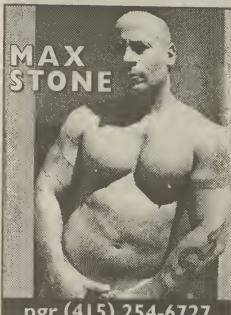
PERSONALS

MODELS/ESCORTS

SUPER-THICK UNCUT TOP

MASCULINE LATIN,
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BUILT GOODLOOKING-
SATISFYING 24 HRS.

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IN-OUT \$85-\$95



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Buffed, athletic nudist &
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26yo, energetic & friendly.
In/Out 527-8124

E18

Intense Exmilitary Top
TRAINING 764-6627

E18

6'2" Smooth Healthy Handsome
CUTE BLOND BOY!
Over 9", Thick 908-7658

E18

6'3" 225# FIREMAN
28 muscular, masculine & xx handsome
No disappointments. Outcalls 679-3168

E24

PISS ON YOU

And bizarre games-Mike 227-6115

E18

SACRAMENTO HUNK
(916) 819-0447 Built Chest/Arms

E18

DOMINATION!!

24hrs In/Out Nathan 487-7662

E18

CUTE YOUNG BOY
19yr old, 5'10", 150 lbs, 7 1/2
Uncut, smooth body, beautiful face
And great personality. Pgr 679-8843

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CALL THIS AD!!!
26 y/o Handsome man! Slender but muscular, easygoing & comfortable to be with! Versatile, Call & let's talk! In/Out will Travel! 24hrs Nathan 487-7662

E18

CZECH STUDENT HOT 19
Good looking Good time & massage 24 Hours, \$120 an hour pg 313-1552

E18

Tall Slim Smooth Cute Blond Blk/Grn
SEXY FINE YOUNG MAN

Free Charm & Wit w Request 253-8600

E18

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E18

KINKY BOYTOY
Sexy Smooth Boy w/Tight Body Great Butt. Loves to Please. 5'7", 135 lbs, 24 yrs Ph 558-9351

E18

HANDSOME & PASSIONATE
Beautiful eyes, great butt
Sinewy body, well equipped
Versatile, will take you
To Heaven. Pager: 207-6117

E18

FRENCH MARINE

Bodybuilder,
220lbs, 6'1", 52ch, 21"A,
26 years.
New in town from
Paris, France

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SEXY GUY
Hung 9' and the Hottest

775-4771 24 Hrs

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EROTIC**

**GAY/BI/STRAIGHT
COUPLES/ALL SCENES
DIVERSE TYPES**

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(Entire Bay Area)

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LONG HAIR, 6'2", 9" UNCUT, BI
JOE • 415-790-1630

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25yo, Extremely Handsome, Rock hard 5'9", 160, Br/Gr, 7 1/2" cut, muscle Ass, Deep throat 415-739-7312

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Attractive, aggressive, mature and experienced! 38 yo, 5'8", 155#, hung, cut & fun. Boyish good looks • expert, skilled top. Basic or S&M • leather • spanking • FF • toys • buttplug • Master/slave. Friendly & easy going or rough. Novices or advanced. Sane 415-883-1663 Brian. Out Late OK

CUTE & FRIENDLY

Kissable cuddle boy w/smooth
Athletic body & great butt
5'6", 130 lbs. Pgr 679-1058

HOT JOCK

SAN JOSE
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**Spanking-Paddling-Discipline &
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**Handsome Sexy Asian 27, 5'7", 140
#75 Dave 436-9663**

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18-20 (415) 219-7331

Clean-cut Grad Student,

5'10", 155, Brown/Blue,

Smooth, Lean, Muscular Body

Very Cute, Very Versatile,

Call Jason 24 hrs 541-5002

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Huge & Beautiful "10" by 6 1/2 Ramo \$80

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Kicks Back for Service • 24 Hours

10" X 6" UNCUT

Big Fat Tool 487-9566 pgr 678-1005

BLACK GOLD

200 lbs Very Muscular

10" Top 431-5923

9X6 24 HOURS

Call: 775-4771 24 Hours

HOT BLOODED BUDDY

Hot Dominate top, sexy, extra thick!

Rock hard-throbbing man. avil 4 fun

Craig \$85 (415) 431-6252 Call 24 hrs

Better than Prozac! 715-6410 Brad

Firm & Sensual - Great Touch! Etc.

STALLION

BPR # 807-5690

HOT TOUGH TOP

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CBT, Fetish, All Fantasies. 38yo, 6'1",
210#, Brown Hair, Blue Eyes,
Flat-top, mustache, 7" uncum. Beginner
to Heavy. Have Equipment

Scott 415 790-0902 In/Out



280-7340 pgr

29" w., 140", 6'1"

\$150 - page 202-1110

Football, wrestling uniform; speedos

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Long Hair Sensual Nice Trim Body

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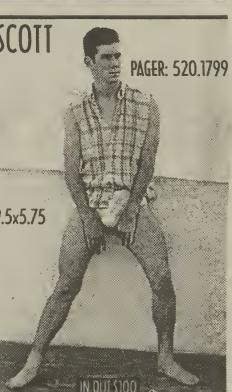
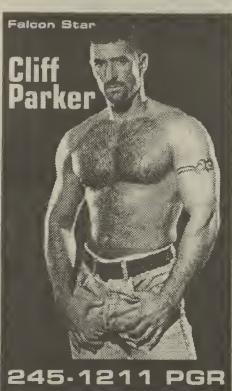
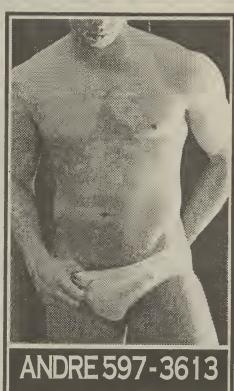
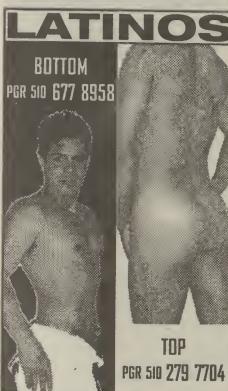
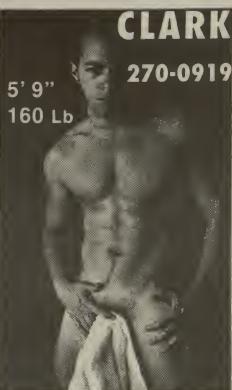
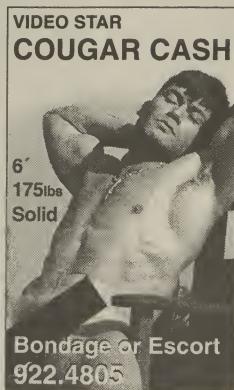
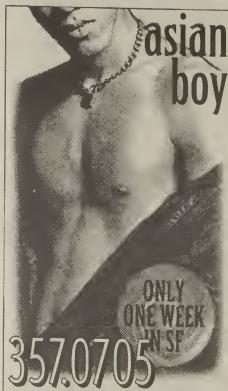
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CAPS	double price
BOLD	double price
X-BOLD	triple price

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- Money Order
- Visa
- MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge on Visa and MasterCard.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

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